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President's Republic Day Message

Following is the text of the President, Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed's message to the Nation, broadcast by All India Radio on the eve of the 28th Republic Day:

Tomorrow we are celebrating the twenty-eighth Republic Day. On this auspicious occasion, I am happy to greet all of you, my countrymen at home and abroad, and convey to you my good wishes.

India has rightly been described as the largest democracy in the world. Democratic processes have taken firm and abiding root in our country. Our democracy is on the eve of yet another milestone in its progress. Soon we shall have elections, to the Lok Sabha. A parliamentary democracy derives its strength and authority from the will of the people in whom resides the sovereign power to choose the Government. Our people have time and again shown their political maturity and our electoral machinery has earned a reputation for the observance of highest standards of impartiality and integrity. I appeal to all political parties to eschew bitterness and rancour in their election campaigns and help maintain an atmosphere of peace and calm in the country. Acts of violence and indiscipline are incompatible with the practice of democracy.

We enter the new year in a mood of hope and confidence. Thanks to the determined efforts of the Government and enthusiastic popular participation, the country has made rapid strides, in all spheres of national endeavour. There is now a very comfortable level of buffer stock of foodgrains. There has been a sustained drive against the black money economy and smuggling and for fuller utilisation of industrial capacities, efficient procurement of foodgrains and successful export promotion. The rate of growth of industrial production, during the year, has been about 10 per cent - the highest in

any single year recorded so far. What is even more gratifying is that the increase has been appreciable in vital industries like power generation, coal, steel, fertilisers, newsprint, cement and aluminium. The performance of public sector enterprises has been particularly remarkable. All these have contributed to containing the inflationary pressures. In a world in which high rates of inflation have become almost universal, our countrymen can congratulate themselves on this achievement. The country has, moreover, made headway in a field which was previously the preserve of the more developed industrial nations. Our consultancy firms, both in the public and the private sectors, have proved their worth with the result that not only countries of West Asia, South East Asia and Lat in America but also some in Europe are entrusting them with responsibilities for design, engineering and erection supervision of steel, heavy electricals and such other plants, in the face of stiff competition from the world's leading firms. I am sure, India's technological maturity will pave the way for ever increasing cooperation between us and other developing countries.

Our successes should not, however, make us complacent and blind us to our shortcomings. The recent spurt in prices of edible oil, raw cotton, sugar, etc. which is not so much due to shortages of these commodities but mainly to speculative activity, emphasises the need for setting up effective cooperatives and for vigilance to curb anti-social activities. The scope of the public distribution system has to be widened considerably to include all essential commodities of mass consumption. We must also build buffer stocks of many commodities besides cereals so that we are able to control the price line. We know, from experience, that the most, effective method of checking the activities of antisocial middle-men is to organise cooperatives for production, mar-

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keting and consumption. I would like to reiterate my appeal to public-spirited citizens all over the country to build up genuine cooperatives, in every village and every

mohalla, so that men and women of goodwill and dedication everywhere can ensure self-help through mutual help.

Our country has opted for planned development. The essence of planning is the conscious directioning of resources through carefully thought out programmes. I believe the time has come to review our planning and make it more and more rooted in the local resources, for that is the only way to raise the standard of living of the people, especially the less-privileged sections of the society. Implementation of such plans calls for increased mobilisation of resources both human and material. This will require ruthless cutting down of conspicuous consumption and extravagant expenditure. The ideals of simplicity and austerity, to which we always pay lip sympathy, must become a way of life with us. It is a pity that our richer classes are blindly copying the life styles of the affluent societies of the West and the industrial structure is largely oriented to meeting the insatiable needs of this small minority. This untenable concept must change and the industry must be made to produce articles of mass consumption at reasonable prices. Growth, equity and self-reliance, which are the cherished goals of our planning process, are capable of achievement when there is not only a sense of involvement and dedication on the part of all citizens, but also that equal opportunities for all are ensured. I am confident that these will be forthcoming in ample measure to take our country forward in its quest for a just and equitable society.

It is the historic responsibility of the present generation to inspire a sense of security and self-confidence in the minds of all citizens irrespective of caste, community or region. A positive force that can contribute to our development is the spirit of healthy nationalism which refuses encouragement to fissiparous tendencies. India must live before India can grow and successfully tackle the immense problems of poverty, ignorance, ill-health that face her at present. National integration is as basic to her survival as it is for her development. We must transcend the divisive forces of casteism,

communalism, linguism and regionalism and forge not merely political unity but the unity of minds and hearts of all our peoples. In spite of vast size and immense diversity, India has maintained through the ages the concept of unity and identity and has tried to blend out of many cultural elements, a rich and harmonious national ethos. I appeal to all our people to uphold and foster this great tradition and make India prosperous and happy.

Friends, I have an abiding faith in the great destiny that awaits our motherland. The innate goodness of our people and their capacity to face challenges from within and without have stood many tests and have emerged with added strength. We have abundant human and material resources. Let us on this day resolve through consent and cooperation to build in this ancient land of ours a new social order free from rancour and exploitation and friendly to all mankind.

INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jan 01, 1977

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INDONESIA

India-Indonesia Maritime Boundary Agreement

The following press release on the India-Indonesia maritime boundary agreement was issued in New Delhi on January 14, 1977:

An Agreement on the Extension of the 1974 Continental Shelf Boundary between India and Indonesia in the Andaman Sea and the Indian Ocean was signed here today by Shri M. A. Vellodi, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs for India, and Lt. Gen. Soegih Arto, the Indonesian Ambassador in

India.

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By this Agreement the 48-mile boundary line established by the 1974 Agreement, which came into force with effect from December 17, 1974, has been extended north-eastwards into the Andaman Sea upto a point close to the possible trijunction point between India, Indonesia and Thailand. The boundary has also been extended south-westwards into the Indian Ocean upto a distance of 200 nautical miles from the respective coasts. The extension of the entire maritime boundary, like the boundary settled in 1974, is based on the median line principle.

The Agreement signed today is the result of negotiations held in 1976 at technical level. The Agreement has been concluded in a spirit of cooperation, friendship and good neighbourliness. It provides that India and Indonesia recognise and acknowledge the sovereign rights of the respective Governments in and over the seabed area including the sub-soil thereof within the limits established by the present Agreement.

INDONESIA INDIA THAILAND

Date : Jan 01, 1977

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IRAQ

Indo-Iraqi Agreement on Water Resource Projects

The following press release on the Indo-Iraqi agreement on water resource projects was issued in New Delhi on January 14, 1977:

India and Iraq today finalised preliminary discussions and confirmed the minutes of the meeting identifying areas for collaboration in the development of water resources

projects in Iraq. The concluding discussions were chaired on behalf of India by Shri Y. K. Murthy, Chairman, Central Water Commission and Dr. Faruk Yacoub EL Yussif, Director General of Studies and Designs (DGSD), Government of Iraq. The Iraqi delegation had earlier held discussions with the Secretary, Department of Irrigation, Union Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

The Government of Iraq have a major water resource development plan involving surveys, planning, investigations, designs, construction and operation of many major dams, barrages and canal systems, many of them with foreign collaboration. The Directorate General of Studies and Designs in Iraq which is responsible for organising and co-ordinating the work on the various water resource development projects have sought suitable assistance and technical cooperation from the Government of India in organising and coordinating the work on these projects.

The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has, therefore, agreed to cooperate with Iraq and the following are the areas and levels of cooperation identified: (a) Hydrological observations: In this field Iraqi engineers and technicians will be trained in India and Indian technicians will be sent to Iraq to oversee the work of hydrological observations and to advise Iraqi technicians on technical matters. (b) Project Hydrology: The DGSD, Iraq will send engineers every year for a course in the International School of Hydrology at the University of Roorkee. In addition one senior engineer from India would be sent to Iraq for imparting know-how about mathematical models for water Balance Studies and synthetic generation of data. A senior engineer will also be directed to supervise the work in the Water Research Centre at Baghdad.

Cooperation would also be extended to Iraq in the fields of topographic surveys, supervision for irrigation and drainage projects, preparation of feasibility reports and technical evaluation of detailed projects.

The exchange of visits of experts on both sides for short durations as a part of

a long range cooperation scheme, would con-

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tinue. Assistance will also be given in procurement of equipment, survey instruments, supply of technical publications and other relevant publications relating to water resources development.

The agreement signed today is a part of the wider overall general agreement already existing, viz, the Indo-Iraqi Joint Cooperation Scheme. The cooperation being extended according to today's agreement will be for a period of three years subject to renewal.

The Iraqi team led by Dr. Yussif, also included Mr. Jamil Mohmood, Chief Engineer and Director Planning; Mr. Kanaan J. Jawad, Director of Designs and Mr. Salar Bakar Sami, Engineering Supervisor of Water Research Centre of Baghdad. The members of the team will be in India till the 19th of this month to familiarise themselves with the working of the CWC and the development of water resources in India.

IRAQ INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM LATVIA

Date : Jan 01, 1977

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LAOS

Speech by the President at Banquet in Honour of President Souphanouvong

The president, Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, made the following speech at the banquet in honour of His Excellency Mr. Souphanouvong, President of the Laos People's Democratic Republic and President of the People's Supreme Assembly, in New Delhi on January 13, 1977:

I feel greatly honoured in welcoming you to India. Your visit here as the distinguished Head of State of the friendly Government and People of Lao People's Democratic Republic is a source of great satisfaction to us. I would like to take this opportunity, Mr. President, to also extend a cordial and warm welcome to the other members of your Delegation.

Your Excellency, your presence here amongst us today is symbolic of the very close contacts that have existed between India and Laos since times immemorial. The extent of cultural contacts which developed between India and Laos, between the 9th and the 13th centuries, has left an indelible imprint upon their mutual relations. Such contacts have assisted in mutually enriching the cultures of both countries and in profoundly influencing the evolution of a common humanitarian tradition which deeply permeates the passionate attachment and yearning of peoples of both countries for peace.

Your Excellency, during the colonial era in both our countries, our contacts may have ceased due to reasons beyond our control, but as heirs to a common cultural tradition, it was only to be expected that we would resume them and impart to them a modern substance and content. We are aware that the process of decolonization and national liberation in your country has been a troubled and extended one, but we are extremely happy that the long dark night of fratricidal conflict has ended in your country and a new, stable and united Laos has now emerged at the dawn of another day. The Government and people of India have the deepest admiration for the unique contributions made by Your Excellency, Prime Minister Kaysone Phomvihane, Foreign Minister, Phouni Sipraseuth, and other distinguished leaders of the Lao Democratic People's Republic and for the determined manner in which your Government and people have addressed themselves to the task of national reconstruction and development. I would like to take this opportunity to assure you, Your Excellency, that within the limits of our capabilities, we will be only too

happy to be associated with your efforts in this direction.

Your Excellency, by an interesting coincidence your assumption of office in your country, more or less, coincided with the adoption of certain measures by my Government to ensure the peace and stability of this country, with a view to bringing about an accelerated rate of economic growth in order to fulfil the economic and social aspirations of the millions of this country. These measures have very quickly justified their enactment and the results are there for (very one to see. Inflation, which at one time had, reached a figure of 30 per cent per annum is, today, by and large, under control; industrial and agricultural production have touched new records and, imbued with a new sense of discipline and purpose, the Government and people of India today are determined to forge ahead. The opportunities, therefore, now available to India and Laos for furthering and consolidating their relations at all levels are unique and unparalleled in the long history of our relations. I am fully confident that in the years to come, both India and Laos will continue to add new dimensions to the age-old ties of friendship and cooperation.

Your Excellency, I understand that this is your first visit abroad after assuming office as President of your country. We are deeply gratified by your very special gesture of friendship and would like to assure you that this gesture is greatly appreciated and will long be cherished. I sincerely wish that it were possible for Your Excellency and other friends from the Lao People's Democratic Republic to spend some more time with us. I am confident, nevertheless, that during the few days that you are in our country. You will get a chance of acquainting Yourself. not only with the cultural heritage of India but, also, with the progress recorded in the fields of industry, agriculture, science and technology. Your Excellency, I am certain that you will witness for yourself the great warmth and affection, which the people of India have for Your Excellency and

for the Government and people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Ladies and gentlemen: May I now invite You to join me in a toast to the health, and well-being of His Excellency President Souphanouvong, to the health of the other distinguished guests from the Lao People's Democratic Republic, to the welfare and continued success of the brave people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and to the ever-lasting friendship between India and the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

LAOS INDIA USA

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LAOS

President Souphanouvong's Reply

Replying, President Souphanouvong delivered the following speech:

It is for our delegation and my own self a great honour to attend this banquet offered by His Excellency the President of India, and we are truly moved by the heartfelt words of welcome and friendship he has pronounced, which indeed are the expression of the good and friendly links existing between our two countries.

I should like to take this opportunity to express, on behalf of our delegation and on my own behalf, our sincerest thanks to His Excellency the President of India, to Her Excellency the Prime Minister of India, to Their Excellencies the members of Government and Parliament, as well as to all the Indian authorities and population for their generous hospitality and warm welcome.

From her own experience and from her national struggle to liberate herself from the colonialist yoke, under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, India knows well what it means when a country is subject to the darkness of oppression and to indignity, due to the loss of national independence and freedom. Over the period of thirty years, which is very short a span of time, India, from the status of a slave country has today become a modern country with national independence and freedom. One of the most gifted sons of this ancient country, Jawaharlal Nehru, the architect of

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modern India which stood "at the end of an era and on the threshold of a new period of history", a period of national progress in the fields of industries, agriculture, science and technology, when India is playing a greater and greater role in the development of friendly relations between nations and in safe-guarding world peace. India has been one of the countries promoting the well-known principles of Panchsila as basis for international relations. Today, within the non-aligned movement, modern India, upto her heroic tradition of struggle, is giving an active contribution to the movements of national liberation ----- he yet oppressed nations in their fight against interference and aggression by imperialistic forces for their true independence and freedom and for a new international economic order on the basis of the respect of each other's sovereignty, equality and mutual benefits. For our country and people throughout our armed struggle against imperialist aggressors for national liberation, India has consistently been most helpful to our cause and has contributed to our quest for peace and justice as has been shown by her active role at the conference table as well as in the International Commission for Control and Supervision of the Cease-Fire in Laos. Since the foundation of our Lao People's Democratic Republic, India has continued to extend support and assistance to us, both morally and materially, as has been shown, in particular, at the time when our country was facing acute difficulties due to the blockade of out,

border by a neighbouring country. India, then, had immediately and most efficiently joined other nations in lending us a friendly hand. I would like to take this opportunity to express, on behalf of the Lao People, the People's Supreme Assembly and the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic our deep appreciation for this precious assistance.

Even though this is the first visit of this kind ever made by a Lao delegation since the foundation of the L.D.P.R. it would be indeed over simplification to observe that there is a lack of contacts between our two countries. Indeed, since time immemorial there exists close and friendly relations between our two peoples and these relations are being strengthened and increasingly developed on a wider and wider scope, on the basis of the principles of Panchsila, in keeping with the common aspirations of our two peoples.

May I conclude by inviting all of you to join me in a toast and drink:

- for the long-lasting Indo-Lao friendship!
- for the health of H.E. the President Fakhruddin All Ahmed of India and Madam!
- for the health of Her Excellency Madam Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi!
- for the health of all their Excellencies!
- for the health of all the Ladies and Gentlemen at this party.

LAOS INDIA USA

Date : Jan 01, 1977

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India-Laos Joint Communique

Following is the text of the joint communique issued in New Delhi on January 19, 1977 at the conclusion of the State visit of Mr. Souphanouvong, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, to India:

At the invitation of Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, President of India, Mr. Souphanouvong, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, paid a State visit to India from January 12 to 19, 1977.

The President led the delegation of Lao People's Democratic Republic which included Mr. Phoune Sipraseuth, Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Kham-souk Keola, Vice-President of the Supreme People's Assembly & Secretary-General; Mr. Snane Southichak, Minister of Communications, Public Works and Transport; and other high dignitaries.

During their stay in New Delhi, President Souphanouvong and members of the

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Lao Delegation paid homage to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi and Shri Jawaharlal Nehru by laying wreaths at Rajghat and Shantivan.

Thereafter, the President and his party visited places of industrial, agricultural and technological interests and also centres of scientific research and cultural heritage. They were received with great warmth, reflecting the cordial and fraternal relations happily existing between the two countries.

The President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic had friendly and fruitful talks with the President of India, Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, and the Prime Minister of India, Shrimati Indira Gandhi. He also received the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Y. B. Chavan.

The talks between the President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Prime Minister of India were held in an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual understanding. The following also participated in the talks.

From the Lao People's Democratic Republic side:

1. Mr. Phoune Sipraseuth, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.
2. Mr. Khamsouk Keola, Vice-President of the Supreme People's Assembly & Secretary General.
3. Mr. Snane Southichak, Minister of Communications, Public Works and Transport.
4. Mr. Somphavanh Inthavong, Member of the Permanent Committee of the People's Supreme Assembly.
5. Mr. Kham Ouane Bouppha, Vice Minister of Defence.
6. Mr. Oune Hauane Phounesavath, Vice Minister of Information, Propaganda, Culture and Tourism.
7. Mr. Soubanh Srithirath, Chief of Cabinet, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
8. Mr. Souk Upravann, Lao Ambassador to India.

From the Indian side:

1. Shri Y. B. Chavan, Minister of External Affairs.
2. Shri V. N. Gadgil, Minister of State for Defence Production.
3. Shri Mohd. Shafi Qureshi, Minister of State for Railways.
4. Shri Dharam Bir Sinha, Deputy Minister for Information and Broadcasting.

5. Shri P. N. Dhar, Secretary to the Prime Minister.
6. Shri J. S. Mehta, Foreign Secretary.
7. Shri M. A. Vellodi, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.
8. Shri N. N. Jha, Joint Secretary (N&EA), Ministry of External Affairs.
9. Shri E. A. Srinivasan, Ambassador of India to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic expressed his sincere thanks for the support and aid of the Government and people of India in the just struggle for the independence of the Lao people in the past, and now in healing the wounds of war and in the economic development of the Lao people.

The President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic expressed his understanding of India's efforts at finding solutions to various economic and social problems. The President appreciated these efforts for a successful transformation of India, which was a developing country, into a modern, prosperous, agricultural and industrial country.

The Lao side felicitated the achievements of India expressed the hope that the Indian side would share its technological experiences with the Lao People's Democratic Republic on basis of principles of respect for the independence, sovereignty and equality and to the mutual benefit of both the countries.

The Lao side appreciated the peaceful foreign policy of India, based on the five

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principles of peaceful co-existence and emphasised the important role played by India in the struggle for consolidating peace in the world and in the struggle against colonialism, neocolonialism, imperialism, racism and

racialism. It was highly appreciative of India's role in the Non-aligned movement.

Both countries welcomed the positive results of the fifth Non-Aligned Summit held in Colombo in August 1976.

The Prime Minister of India conveyed her felicitations at the glorious victory of the three peoples of Indo-China Peninsula-Lao, Vietnam and Kampuchea. This victory has created conditions, in Southeast Asia and in the world, favourable to the development of friendly cooperation and safeguarding of peace in the world; for the national liberation movements against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism; and for the independence, democracy and social progress.

The Lao side acquainted the Indian side with its efforts at safeguarding and consolidating its good neighbourly relations with the countries of Southeast Asia, in order to strengthen peace and friendly cooperation in that region. The Indian side took note of these efforts and expressed the hope that the Southeast Asian region would be truly an area of peace and friendship.

The Prime Minister of India felicitated the Lao people at their wisdom and ability to liberate peacefully their country, thus making it an independent, democratic and unified country. The Prime Minister of India expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Government and people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in their massive effort at healing the wounds of war and rebuilding the country and in introducing a new, better and fuller life for the Lao people.

The Indian side appreciated the foreign policy of peace, independence, friendship and non-alignment of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and considered it as an important contribution to the movement against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism; and for peace, independence and justice in the world. The Prime Minister of India acquainted the President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic of India's consistent efforts to normalise and improve relations with all its neighbours on the principle of

equality, peaceful co-existence, bilateralism and mutual cooperation. The President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic welcomed the steps taken in this regard by India and expressed the hope that this would promote the cause of peace, cooperation and stability in the region.

Both sides were unanimous in their view that the current international situation favoured the forces of peace, national independence, and social progress. Both sides expressed their conviction in the growing strength of non-aligned movement, the movements for national liberation against imperialism, colonialism and neocolonialism, for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

Both sides warmly hailed the historic victory of the heroic Vietnamese people which inaugurated a new era for the Vietnamese people in developing a peaceful, unified and socialist country. Both sides strongly supported the application of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for membership of the U.N. and expressed the hope that the obstacles in the path of such membership would be overcome.

Both sides hailed the historic victory of the Kampuchean people and re-affirmed their support to the people and Government of Democratic Kampuchea in building a peaceful, independent, unified, non-aligned, sovereign and democratic Kampuchea.

Both sides affirmed their opposition to foreign military bases in Southeast Asia and in the Indian Ocean and called for their dismantling. In this context they stated that the expansion of military facilities in Diego Garcia was not conducive to the promotion of peace and stability in the area.

Both sides expressed concern at the continuing tension in West Asia. They expressed firm support to the struggle of the Arab people for a just settlement of the problems of West Asia, based on speedy withdrawal of Israeli troops from all Arab territories occupied by Israel in 1967, ensuring the legitimate demands of Arab people of

Palestine, including the right to establish

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their own State and recognising the rights of all States in the area to independent existence and development.

Both sides hailed the victory of the people of Angola and fully supported the legitimate struggle of the Angolan Government and people in preserving their territorial integrity.

Both sides supported the heroic struggle of the people of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa against colonialism, brutal racialism in Southern Africa and condemned any attempt to preserve white minority domination in South Africa.

Both sides supported the struggle of the Cypriot people for safeguarding their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Indian side affirmed its willingness to cooperate, within its capabilities, in the noble task of post-war reconstruction of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Further, the Indian side expressed its willingness to provide the services of experts and offered training and educational facilities in various fields to be mutually decided upon.

The two sides agreed that the precise details of the cooperation in various fields would be subject of negotiations and discussions in the near future.

The Prime Minister of India acquainted the President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic of the efforts being made by the Government and people of India for promoting economic progress and social justice with a view to ensuring the all round welfare and prosperity of the nation.

The Indian side acquainted the Lao side of the measures taken to contain the forces of reaction and disruption.

The Lao side congratulated the Government and people of India on their achieve-

ments and expressed its conviction that the Government and people of India would progress and gain further successes in the future.

The two sides noted with satisfaction that the ties of friendship and cooperation between India and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, which exist since ancient times, would be further developed and strengthened. The Lao side expressed its deep appreciation for the warm and fraternal welcome extended to it by the Government and people of India. The two sides agreed that the visit of President Souphanouvong had made a significant contribution to the strengthening of the existing ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

The President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic invited the President of India, Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, and the Prime Minister of India, Smt. Indira Gandhi, to pay a State visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The invitation was accepted with great pleasure.

LAOS INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM SRI LANKA CHINA VIETNAM MALI ISRAEL ANGOLA
NAMIBIA ZIMBABWE SOUTH AFRICA

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NON-ALIGNED PRESS AGENCIES POOL

Shri Mohammad Yunus' Address to Coordination Committee at Cairo

Addressing the first meeting of the Coordination Committee of the Non-aligned Press Agencies Pool at Cairo on January 10, 1977, Shri Mohammad Yunus, Special Envoy to the Prime Minister, made the following speech:

Permit me, at the outset, to express on behalf of the Coordination Committee of the

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Press Agencies pool of Non-aligned Countries, and on my own behalf, our deep gratitude to the Government and people of Egypt, and to our brothers in the Middle East News Agency for enabling us to hold this meeting of the Coordination Committee in the historical and friendly surroundings of Cairo, a city which has the distinction of hosting the second non-aligned Summit in 1964.

It is a great pleasure for all of us to be present here in response to the kind and friendly invitation of our Egyptian hosts. I thank them for their generous hospitality and the meticulous arrangements they have made for our work and for our stay. May God be with them always.

I thank His Excellency Minister Gamal El Oteify for his address. This will provide us the necessary inspiration to conduct our meeting fruitfully and meaningfully. I would request him to convey our greetings and high regards to His Excellency President Anwar Sadat, the Government and the people of Egypt and to his many colleagues.

The present meeting of the Coordination Committee is an important step in the Coordination of activities among non-aligned countries in the field of information. During the last year this cooperation has grown with rapid strides and has attracted much international attention. During the year under review, the representatives of the non-aligned media met at Tunis, New Delhi and finally at the Colombo Summit. We witnessed the process of exchange of views, crystallisation of concepts and concrete decisions that made this cooperation a functioning reality. Simultaneously with calling for the decolonisation of information and for the establishment of a new international order in the fields of information and mass communication, non-aligned countries have also taken concrete steps to move towards this goal. It is noteworthy that as a result of the growing awareness and the need of correct

dissemination of the news and views of the non-aligned developing world, the news coverage since the Colombo Summit has shown qualitative improvement due primarily to the active efforts made by non-aligned press agencies in providing the required orientation and in procuring greater exchange of news between them. The first fruit of these steps has been the Pool of their Press Agencies.

The Constitution of the Press Agencies Pool, and the setting up of this Coordination Committee, provide us with an agreed and well-defined basis for our cooperative work, and with an effective mechanism to put it into action. That this should have come about in a comparatively short time, should cause no surprise. It is but a reflection of the shared aspirations and the consistent common determination of non-aligned countries to work together for building up collective self-reliance and freeing themselves from any type of dependence, in accordance with the directives given at the Summit Conference of Non-aligned Heads of State and Government at Colombo. Their mutual cooperation has, over the years, extended into many fields - political, economic and cultural. The desire to extend it more meaningfully in the field of information was articulated as long back as the Third Summit Conference in Algiers. As pointed out by the Prime Minister of India, non-aligned countries have long known that "Self-reliance in sources of information is as important as technological self-reliance". It is natural that we should take concrete measures in the pursuit of this objective.

This meeting must be seen in that overall context. It would be recalled that the Coordination Committee was set up at the New Delhi Ministerial Conference. It also gave us the constitution of the Pool. The New Delhi decisions were ratified and endorsed by the Colombo Summit. The Coordination Committee held a brief meeting in New Delhi, immediately after its setting up in July, 1976. It enabled members to get acquainted. We had further opportunities of informal consultations at Colombo and later at an informal meeting at Mexico on

the occasion of their national celebrations in September, 1976. Simultaneously, the functional aspects of our coordination have also been gathering pace with intensified activity of the participating news agencies. All of us are anxious to extend these exchange arrangements.

Our meeting is timely in the context of other important international discussions held on the subject of information. It will also precede the forthcoming meeting of the

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Non-aligned Bureau at Foreign Minister's level, where we can expect added support to continue our work.

The rapid development of the Non-aligned News Pool has naturally attracted the attention of international media. Some of it has not been as understanding of our objectives and plans as we could have hoped. This is not unusual when something new comes up in an environment of status quo. However, the deliberations at the recent Conference of UNESCO in Nairobi showed some positive international understanding of our aims. For this it should be sufficient to study the objectives of the Pool as given in its constitution. It is an effort at mutual cooperation between news agencies of non-aligned countries to enable them to exchange news directly, without depending on the few centres where news assimilation is at present concentrated. The purpose of the exchange is to supplement and augment the news resources available to the people of the non-aligned countries, and to ameliorate the existing state of news gathering and dissemination in which a few dominate and the rest depend.

It is the beginning of a modest but important effort to redress imbalances in the present international information order, and to work towards a new information order, free from the inbuilt inequalities of an earlier era.

I am confident that I speak on behalf of all my colleagues in the Coordination Committee in expressing the hope that we

will achieve success in our work in this great and beautiful city. We look to a lofty ideal, which is embodied in the declaration of the Colombo Summit; "Emancipation and development of national information media is an integral part of the overall struggle for the political, economic and social independence for a large majority of the people of the world who should not be denied the right to inform and be informed objectively and correctly."

This meeting in Cairo is the first regular session of the Coordination Committee. It comes at the end of a year of intense cooperative activity, consultations and preparatory work. We have to take stock of the progress achieved and build upon it for a further programme of work. We are aware that we are embarked on an enterprise with great potential for further development. We have no doubt that this potential will be realised as a result of our common dedication and determination. We know that it is a complicated task. We know that it requires highly sophisticated perception and that our effort will have to range over a very sensitive ground. But we also know that it has to be done. We have neither quarrels nor entanglements with any one. But we do have a target. That beacons us and we have to meet the challenge of that call.

EGYPT USA INDIA TUNISIA SRI LANKA ALGERIA MEXICO KENYA

Date : Jan 01, 1977

Volume No

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NON-ALIGNED PRESS AGENCIES POOL

Press Agencies Pool's Press Communique

Following is the text of press communique issued at the end of the first meeting of

the Coordination Committee of the Non-aligned Press Agencies Pool in Cairo on January 13, 1977:

The Coordination Committee of the Press Agencies Pool of the Non-Aligned Countries held its meeting first in Cairo from 10th to 12th January, 1977, in response to the invitation of the Middle East News Agency of Egypt.

The meeting was inaugurated by H.E. Minister of Information and Culture of the Arab Republic of Egypt Gamal El Oteifi and presided over by its Chairman Mr. Mohammed Yunus, representing Samachar of India. Members of the Committee representing respectively Andina of Peru, INA of Iraq, Antara of Indonesia, MENA of Egypt, Prensa Latina of Cuba, APS of Senegal, TAP of Tunisia, VNA of Vietnam, TANJUG of Yugoslavia, AZAP of Zaire, NOTIMEX of Mexico and MBC of Mauritius attended the meeting.

The Coordination Committee noted with satisfaction the rapid strides, made in the co-operation among non-aligned countries in the field of information during 1976, and in particular, among News Agencies of Non-aligned

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countries since the constitution of their Press Agencies Pool and the setting up of the Committee. Already, more than 40 Press Agencies of Non-aligned countries from different parts of the world were actively engaged in exchange and dissemination of news, and as a result, their news was increasingly becoming available to their respective subscribers in contrast to the earlier situation when subscribers in non-aligned countries were almost exclusively dependent on news being carried by the big international news agencies. The Committee re-emphasised the objectives of decolonisation of information and the establishment of new international order in the field of information, for which non-aligned countries were working.

To further improve the already operational activities of the Press agencies pool of the non-aligned countries, the Coordination

Committee decided upon a 7-point programme of action as follows:

(i) It decided to bring to the notice of all non-aligned countries the progress already achieved in the work of the Pool as a vindication of the fact that mutual news exchanges between press agencies of the non-aligned countries were both practical and beneficial, and could be further intensified.

(ii) It formulated guidelines for agreements between press agencies of non-aligned countries to serve as examples in facilitating their news exchanges through mutual agreements.

(iii) It noted that the following participants of the Pool were already acting or were Prepared to act as regional distribution centres, and called upon all press agencies of non-aligned countries to avail themselves of the facilities being offered by these participants:

AIM (Mozambique)
ANDINA (Peru)
ANTARA (Indonesia)
APS (Algeria)
AZAMP (Zaire)
GNA (Ghana)
INA (Iraq)
MAP (Morocco)
MENA (Egypt)
NOTIMEX (Mexico)
PRENSA LATINA (Cuba)
SAMACHAR (India)
TAP (Tunisia)
TANJUG (Yugoslavia)

(iv) It decided to collect information for compiling a directory on facilities existing among press agencies of non-aligned countries for their mutual technical cooperation in order to extend and intensify this cooperation through exchange of technical information, experience and personnel.

(v) It decided on methods for coordinating the activities of news agencies of non-aligned countries for covering inter-

national conferences of interest to non-aligned countries.

(vi) It decided to request participants in the pool, particularly those who were ready to serve as re-distribution centres, to study the cooperation and interest being shown by outside news agencies and international organisations and to report their findings at the next meeting of the Committee.

(vii) It decided to further improve the effectiveness of its work by distributing to member news agencies particular tasks and responsibilities for investigating specific important subjects of interests and preparing reports for consideration at its next meeting. Accordingly, INA of Iraq undertook this responsibility in the field of improvement of communication facilities, Prensa Latina of Cuba in the field of feasibility studies for collective procurement and Standardisation of equipment, MENA of Egypt and AZAP of Zaire in the field of training of journalistic and technical cadres, and Tanjung of Yugoslavia in the field of distribution of news among the regional distribution centres.

The Committee also considered and agreed on methods for promoting cooperation

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between the Press Agencies Pool of non-aligned countries and UNESCO which, during its last general conference at Nairobi had decided to pay special attention to the activities of the Press Agencies Pool. It communicated its conclusions to the Representatives of UNESCO who was specially invited to attend its meeting for this purpose. It further heard with appreciation the comments of the UNESCO representative which indicated positive interest of UNESCO in the work of the Pool and a broad commonality of approach on the problems of information between the Committees and UNESCO.

To maintain the momentum of its work, the Coordination Committee has agreed to hold its next meeting in KINSHASA, ZAIRE,

around the Middle of 1977 and its subsequent meeting in Indonesia towards the end of 1977 or beginning of 1978. The Committee also noted that the expert level meeting on improvement of communication facilities was going to be held at Baghdad (Iraq) from March 1 to 5, 1977 and the report of the meeting on this important subject would be available to the next meeting of the Coordination Committee. It also adopted a special resolution of thanks to the Egyptian Government and people and MENA for their hospitality and arrangements for the Committee's meeting.

EGYPT INDIA USA IRAQ PERU INDONESIA CUBA SENEGAL TUNISIA VIETNAM YUGOSLAVIA
ZAIRE MAURITIUS MEXICO CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC MOZAMBIQUE ALGERIA GHANA
MOROCCO KENYA

Date : Jan 01, 1977

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PAKISTAN

Official Statement on Release of Hijackers by Pakistan

The official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs made the following statement in New Delhi on January 6, 1977 on the release of the hijackers by the Government of Pakistan:

The decision of the Government of Pakistan to release the hijackers of the Indian Airline Boeing aircraft, on the plea that sufficient evidence was not available to justify the institution of criminal proceedings against them, is highly regrettable.

It is contrary to the assurances given by the Government of Pakistan to the Government of India and the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

The Government of Pakistan have also

not agreed to the subsequent request of the Government of India to return the offenders to India to face trial.

The Government of India deplore these moves as they are not in consonance with the process of normalisation of relations between the two countries which can be strengthened only on the basis of mutual trust and understanding.

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Date : Jan 01, 1977

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POLAND

Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi's Speech at Dinner in Honour of Mr. Gierek

The Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, made the following speech at the dinner in honour of His Excellency Mr. Edward Gierek, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, in New Delhi on January 24, 1977:

We are honoured and pleased that you have come to India, bringing such a distinguished delegation with you. We welcome the Vice-President of the Polish People's Republic, Mr. Tomal, the Secretary of the Central Committee of your Party, Mr. Frelek, the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Mr. Stenfanski, and your Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Wojtaszek, as well as the other eminent representatives of your Government and of the Press.

India has always had a feeling of kinship with Poland. For us both freedom was lost and regained. Even in that dark period when we were denied the right to exist as

sovereign states, we kept alive a flaming sense of nationhood. But thanks to the vision and endeavours of our poets and prophets, our reformers and revolutionaries, our far-spreading lands were able to rediscover our soul. Your national poet Adam Mickiewicz declared:

My name is millions - because I love
And suffer millions.

That is how so many of us felt during our own freedom movement, which provided an example of how the hearts of the Indian people throbbed in unison.

The history of Poland is one of courage. It proves the truth of the saying that independence demands constant vigil and sacrifice. The travail of the Polish people is in itself a saga of the invincibility of the human spirit. On my visits to Poland I have noticed the loving care with which entire cities and historic monuments have been reconstructed, and the young taught to take pride in their national heritage. I have always admired your wealth of music, drama and sculpture and the flowering of your graphic arts. The great economic progress made by Poland is equally impressive.

A country which produced a Copernicus, was compelled to lag behind in science until you could be free again. The same sort of circumstances prevented India from benefiting from the Industrial Revolution until our own day. Only after winning independence, could we assume control of our economic destiny. Our development plans have harnessed the energies of our people and are bringing about a change in outlook. We have made significant progress in agriculture and industry. We are proud of our peasants and workers, our teachers and engineers, whose dedication has led to this achievement. More recently the entire nation has shown its mettle in its ability to withstand a combination of economic and political challenges, external and internal, As a result India today has a sounder base and is poised for faster growth.

Development is reaching out to different

parts of the country. Yet many areas and some sections are still economically backward. Hence, although we are among the first dozen nations of the world as regards the volume and range of products, we are still very much a developing country. Imagine the magnitude of the wants of 610 million people. Years of single-minded endeavour are needed to provide them all with the basic amenities. The first essential in the battle against poverty is self-restraint and purposive effort. The rights of the people have to be seen in the context of their needs, and, therefore, balanced with their responsibilities. We have chosen a path in which the people's interests will be supreme and no section should gain at the cost of another. Our course also ensures that national development is achieved in the framework of international co-operation.

Friendship and cooperation between Poland and India have expanded steadily in the last three decades. You have stood by us in our moments of difficulty. You have shared with us the skill and knowledge of

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your experts and technicians in various industries to enable us to build our own economic self-reliance. Internationally, we have worked together for the easing of tensions and the promoting of economic co-operation.

The end of the Second World War signalled the birth of several new nations in Asia, Africa and the Caribbeans and the beginning of the atomic age. The crucial requirements of the era we live in are: achieving equality among nations, and avoiding war, especially nuclear confrontation, with all its fearful implications for the very future of the human race. Peace and development are thus inter-related and that is why developing nations are such ardent champions of peace. Years ago, we came to the conclusion that India could best contribute to peace by remaining non-aligned. This decision has been vindicated by the unfolding panorama of world events. Non-alignment has helped the cause of peace. The socialist countries have had the wisdom to understand the rationale of non-alignment and have

offered friendship to the newly free countries of Asia and Africa.

In the contemporary world, national independence and international inter-dependence are inescapable. In Europe there has been a significant movement in the direction of detente. We should hope this will continue and also that relaxation of tensions is extended to other regions.

India has tried to build bridges of understanding with all countries. We have patiently persisted to improve and normalise relations as well as to expand cooperation with our neighbours. Sharing common problems of poverty, the countries of South Asia should realise that the burdens of each country will be lightened if we devote our experience and capabilities to development. I am glad that our consistent policies have had some success.

Poland's desire for peace is rooted in her tradition and history. A nation which has passed through the turmoils of partition and annexation in the last two centuries and two great wars in the present century has a correct evaluation of the importance of peace. In its desire for furtherance of peace and progress, Poland has an ally in India.

Indo-Polish relations have progressed satisfactorily in trade, science and culture. We should develop them further for our mutual advantage and to the general benefit of the community of nations. Your visit will help to formulate schemes for the future strengthening of our friendship and common quest.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen: I request you to raise our glasses to the health of Their Excellencies First Secretary Gierek and Madame Gierek, to the health of the other distinguished representatives from the Polish People's Republic, to the continuing prosperity of the great Polish people and to friendship between Poland and India.

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Date : Jan 01, 1977

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POLAND

Mr. Gierek's Reply

Replying, Mr. Edward Gierek delivered the following speech:

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to you, Madame Prime Minister, for your kindly words addressed to the Polish People's Republic, to me, my wife and persons who accompany us. We are really moved hearing them. We take them to be an expression of the friendly feelings of the people of India and of you personally towards our people, the feelings that Poles wholeheartedly reciprocate.

May I also once again thank for The invitation to pay a visit to your great country and for the exceptional hospitality accorded to us. This visit is a matter of great satisfaction to me and I consider it of paramount importance. This arises from the sentiments that we of Poland entertain towards India, from the significance we attach to the further development of cooperation between our two countries, from the desire to consolidate our joint actions in the quest for the superior cause of construction of lasting peace in the world.

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The Polish people has profound respect for the historic heritage of India, which has been one of the main centres of world civilization, which gave mankind Rabindranath Tagore and which continues to enrich world culture with new precious values. Pursuing as we did our own long and relentless struggle for freedom, we have always been in solidarity with the independence strife of the

Indian people, we have admired the magnificent personalities of its outstanding leaders, staunch patriots: Mahatma Gandhi and your father, Madame Prime Minister, the great Jawaharlal Nehru. His unforgettable visit to Poland twenty-three years ago, marked the beginning of the friendly cooperation between the two free countries of ours. In the preface to the Polish edition of his excellent book, "The Discovery of India", he wrote the following: "I earnestly hope it will contribute to a better mutual understanding and knowledge between our two peoples". Today, while in India, we pay our homage to his lasting memory.

We have great admiration for the record accomplishment of independent India in all spheres of life. As a nation that had to raise its homeland from terrible war destruction and backwardness brought about by foreign subjugation. We are perfectly aware how enormous and self-sacrificing an effort is the task of overcoming the tragic legacy of colonialism, resolving long overdue socio-economic problems and directing the society and its economy onto a venue of dynamic development. We do know how much India has already accomplished, we do see the current creative efforts of your people in the implementation of the programme which you, Madame Prime Minister, have advanced with a view to accelerating the progressive socio-economic transformations. Indeed, the people of India can celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of independence this year with great satisfaction over its achievements so far and over current dynamic development of its land.

Let me assure you, Madame Prime Minister, all our Indian friends, that while on your road of progress, national development and strengthening India's international position, you and your people have the solidarity, support and sympathy of Poland.

We have high esteem for India's peaceful policy, born out of its humane cultural heritage, the thoughts of its great leaders and the doctrine of Panch Shila. This policy conforms with the vital interests of the country and the paramount needs of the world of

today. We are following with interest India's efforts to strengthen the peaceful stabilization on and around the Indian Sub-Continent as well as your active participation in the non-aligned movement, whose one of the main founders was your country. We feel particularly happy about the successful growth of your relations with the socialist countries, the most telling illustration of which has been the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the Soviet Union and India, signed by you, Madame Prime Minister, and the leader of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The socialist countries are the natural political allies and economic Partners of India in the implementation of its progressive and peaceful aspirations.

Those are, my dear Indian friends, the main considerations we are guided by when conceiving of India as Poland's biggest and closest partner among the developing countries and when wishing to give new dimensions to our friendly cooperation.

Along with the growth of its economic, technological and scientific potential, the Polish People's Republic is ever more actively participating in international cooperation. Particularly great progress in the field we are making in the current decade. The people of Poland are intensifying their efforts to accelerate the country's development. The efforts produce good results. In the last five-year period we attained an industrial production increase by over 70 per cent, while agricultural production grew by about 20 per cent; foreign trade turnovers trebled; consequently, the national income has grown by over 60 per cent. Upon such premises we have secured a marked increase of the real incomes of the working people, expanded housing construction and carried out an extensive social programme.

We continue to advance along this path, mapped out by the Sixth and reaffirmed by the Seventh Congress of our Party. Like all other countries we are faced with various difficulties to be overcome, yet we are deeply

selves will be accomplished. The results of the current decade shall be measured by the target of doubling the per capita national income.

Socialist Poland has at its disposal today a substantial industrial, scientific and technological potential, which offers us growing possibilities, also in the field of increased demand for cooperation with other countries. We are expanding it in all directions.

Like the other socialist States, we attach great importance to the expansion of our relations with developing countries. The latter flows from our ideological, political and economic considerations. The forces of socialism, born out of the liberation strivings of the people, have always stood by the side of peoples struggling for liberation from colonialism and foreign imperialist domination, they have always supported and assisted them, and both now and in the past have been an unfailing ally of the national-liberation movement. At the same time, the socialist States see in this movement and in the independent States of Asia, Africa and Latin America born out of it, their chief ally in the struggle for establishment of new international relations and lasting peace. In the same way we view the non-aligned movement which played, continues to perform and still has a highly positive role to fulfil in the world of today. Our own nation, whose character and consciousness have been moulded by the long and hard struggle for freedom, has special reasons to understand and wholeheartedly support the strivings and aspirations of peoples that gained their independence after years of colonial domination.

Along with the other socialist States, Poland lends its solidarity to the strivings of the developing nations to shape new international economic relations with greater advantages to their socioeconomic progress. Equally justifiable are the postulates relating to assistance in development; special responsibility and a debt to be paid are borne in this regard by countries that have grown rich on colonial exploitation and still often continue to do so by their neo-colonial practices. We are attentively following the so-called North-

South dialogue. We believe that of the greatest importance is an establishment of real relations of equal partnership, free from any discrimination, favouring a free flow of the know-how and technology, in keeping with the vital needs of development. It is precisely this economic cooperation, based on the principles of equal partnership that we are shaping and wish to expand to the utmost with developing countries. Its guiding principle is partnership in economic growth, in effecting industrial, scientific and technological aspirations and resolving problems of dynamic development. Ours is the desire not only to support the struggle to transform international economic relations, but likewise to take an active part in it.

India, befriended with us on many accounts, continues to be Poland's main partner among the developing nations. Over the past four years our mutual trade turnovers have grown threefold. We wish to retain this high rate of growth, which in fact has already been provided for both in the agreements already signed or those under preparation. At the same time, we declare ourselves in favour of enriching our economic cooperation with new contents and forms, particularly as far as more extensive cooperation in industry, joint ventures and efforts on third markets are concerned. Our inter-governmental Commission has already worked out an important programme relating to these matters, one which should be carried out, expanded and stay open for new initiatives. This will consolidate our economic partnership and favour further successful development of our respective countries.

We are happy to see further expansion of Polish-Indian co-operation in all fields. We appreciate greatly the growing exchanges in the field of science, in the progress of which both our countries have important achievements of world significance. We are glad of ever broader cultural exchanges which promote better mutual knowledge of our peoples and bring them closer together.

Your memorable visit to Poland, Madame Prime Minister, was of major importance to the entirety of our relations. The visit of

Poland's Prime Minister, Mr. Piotr Jaroszewicz, to India as well as other visits and meetings in recent years have also contri-

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buted to their development. I rest assured that in the course of our present talks, which we have initiated in such a cordial atmosphere today by assessing the heretofore progress of Polish-Indian cooperation, we shall map out its new prospects for the near and more distant future.

Poland and India take identical or converging positions towards the fundamental problems of international life and contemporary world. Most of all, we are united in our love for peace, so common to our peoples. As a matter of fact, States subordinate all their international actions to this superior cause.

In the pursuit of that great cause our country cooperates closely with its socialist allies and above all with the great Soviet Union whose consistently peaceful policy paves ways to consolidate international security, achieve general and complete disarmament and peaceful cooperation among nations. The chief proponent of this policy is Leonid Brezhnev, making as he does a great personal contribution to the successful solution of major international problems.

The initiative-inspiring line of the socialist states has introduced and advanced a new and extremely important phenomenon in international life - that of the process of detente in Europe. Its most distinct manifestations and at the same time the groundwork for further progress was the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation. We strive to fully implement its Final Act, which we have reconfirmed in the documents of the recent meeting of our Community in Bucharest. By the same token we voice ourselves in favour of extending the process of detente to all the regions of the world, making it universal and irreversible. Naturally, this calls for elimination of the present conflicts, and easing of the existing tensions. Following the end of the war in Indochina, after the victory of its and other nations

fighting for freedom, it is now particularly important to remove the effects of aggression in the Middle East, to ensure the people of Palestine the right to an independent statehood. It is also necessary to ensure national and human rights in the south of Africa, now violated by colonial and racist regimes.

No doubt, a right way to consolidate international detente is establishment of regional systems of collective security. With this end in view as far as Europe is concerned, Poland supports also the idea of establishing such a system on the vast continent of Asia.

There is pressing necessity to arrest the arms race, the continuation of which entails grave threats, including so far unknown ones. In supporting preparation of a special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations devoted to disarmament, we believe it should promote the convocation of a World Disarmament Conference.

Those and other important international problems require continued cooperation of all countries, India, your Government and you personally, Madame Prime Minister, make a substantial and universally acknowledged contribution to the progress of the cause of peace and international cooperation. I trust one of the most important phenomena of our time is the making of a great coalition of the forces of peace, comprising the socialist States, nonaligned countries and progressive social movements, a coalition which offers ample room for every other State and movement which understand the superior nature of that mankind-embracing cause.

It has always been my and my wife's desire to see India. We are extremely glad we could have come to visit your great and beautiful country. We feel among close friends, here, and we thank you for this. I wish to convey most friendly greetings to the people of India from the people of Poland. I wish your people all the successful advance forward, full realization of its strivings and aspirations.

Allow me to wish:

-- all the good health and happiness to you, Madame Prime Minister,

-- all the good health and happiness to you, Mr. President,

-- new accomplishments to the great people of India, May the noble friendship between the peoples of Poland and India be further strengthened.

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Date : Jan 01, 1977

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POLAND

Indo-Polish Agreement on Air Services

The following press release on the Indo-Polish agreement on air services was issued in New Delhi on January 25, 1977:

An agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Polish People's Republic on operation of air services between the two countries was signed here today.

The agreement provides for the operation of two services per week by LOT, the Polish airline, one to through Calcutta and the other to through Delhi or Bombay. Reciprocally, Air India can operate two services a week to through Warsaw or Gdansk in Poland.

Shri K. Raghu Ramaiah, Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation & Parliamentary Affairs, signed the agreement on behalf of

India and Mr. Emil Wojtaszek, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Polish People's Republic, signed on behalf of Poland.

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Date : Jan 01, 1977

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Indo-Polish Joint Communiqué

Following is the text of the joint communiqué issued in New Delhi on January 27, 1977 at the conclusion of the official visit of the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, Mr. Edward Gierek, to India:

At the invitation of the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, H.E. Mr. Edward Gierek, and Madame Gierek, paid an official visit to the Republic of India from January 24 to 27, 1977.

Mr. Edward Gierek was accompanied by Mr. Zdzislaw Tomal, Deputy Chairman of the Council of State of the Polish People's Republic; Mr. Ryszard Frelek, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party; Mr. Piotr Stenfanski, Deputy Speaker of Parliament (Sejm) of the Polish People's Republic; Mr. Emil Wojtaszek, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Jerzy Olszewski, Minister of Foreign Trade and Maritime Economy; Mr. Maciej Wirowski, Minister, First Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission; Mr. Maciej Szczepanski, Chairman of the Polish Radio and TV Committee; Mr. Jan Czaplá, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the

Polish People's Republic; and Mr. Wojciech Zukrowski, Member of Parliament and Writer.

The Indian side included Shri Y. B. Chavan, Minister of External Affairs; Shri K. C. Pant, Minister of Energy; Shri V. P. Singh, Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce; Shri P. N. Dhar, Secretary to Prime Minister; Shri J. S. Mehta, Foreign Secretary, Shri J. C. Ajmani, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs; Shri K. S. Bhutani, Ambassador of India to Poland; and Shri S. V. Purushottam, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

Mr. Edward Gierek was accorded a warm and cordial welcome by the leaders and people of India. As the guest of honour, he participated in celebrations marking the 27th anniversary of India's Republic Day.

During his stay in Delhi, Mr. Edward Gierek paid homage to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi and Shri Jawaharlal Nehru by laying wreaths at Rajghat and Shantivana.

Mr. Edward Gierek was received by the President of India, Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, and had friendly and fruitful talks with the Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi. He also received the Minister of External Affairs of India, Shri Y. B. Chavan, and the President of the Indian National Congress, Shri D. K. Borooah.

During the talks between the First Secretary Edward Gierek and Prime Minister,

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Shrimati Indira Gandhi, which covered Indo-Polish bilateral relations and a wide range of current international issues, the two leaders expressed satisfaction with the happy relations and cooperation existing between the two countries and reaffirmed their determination to expand them further in various fields. They shared the conviction that this cooperation serves not only the interests of the peoples of the two countries but also the wider cause of international peace, cooperation and understanding.

The talks, which took place in an atmosphere of the utmost cordiality, revealed that the position of the two sides on the issues discussed was either identical or very close.

The two leaders observed that the development of Indo-Polish relations on the basis of the principles of equality, mutual benefit, non-interference in internal affairs and respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty exemplify the successful implementation of the policy of peaceful co-existence among states with diverse political, social and economic systems.

The two leaders noted with satisfaction that the regular contacts and exchange of visits, at different levels, had resulted in closer cooperation in political, economic, scientific, technological and cultural fields for the benefit of their peoples. This collaboration has developed in recent years in conformity with the Joint Declaration of Friendship and Cooperation between the Polish People's Republic and the Republic of India, adopted in 1973, during the visit to India of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Polish People's Republic, Mr. Piotr Jaroszewicz. In this context, the work done by the Indo-Polish Joint Commission had made a significant contribution, which is of special importance for the strengthening of mutually beneficial cooperation between them. While positively assessing the progress already achieved, the two sides stressed the importance of fuller utilisation of the existing potentialities and the further expansion of their cooperation on the basis of long term planning and the principle of mutual benefit.

Both sides reaffirmed their desire to further develop exchange of industrial, scientific and technological experience. They expressed confidence that the implementation of existing agreements and those concluded during the visit on a long-term perspective consistent with the growing potential of their economies will lead to further strengthening of their mutual relations.

In furtherance of these objectives, the two sides welcomed the signing of:

(1) Long-Term Agreement on Economic, Industrial and Technical Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Polish People's Republic.

(2) Indo-Polish Air Services Agreement.

(3) Indo-Polish Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 1977 and 1978.

(4) Programme of Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Polish People's Republic in the field of Science and Technology for January 1977 to December 1978.

The First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party informed the Prime Minister of India of the progress made by the Polish people in the development of the construction of a developed socialist society and the foreign policy of Poland aimed at peace, disarmament, detente and international cooperation based on equality and mutual benefit. The Prime Minister of India expressed high appreciation of the success achieved by the Polish people in the improvement of their living standards as well as their social, economic, scientific and cultural advancement, and welcomed the constructive role played by the Polish People's Republic in the field of international affairs, in particular, at the European Conference on Security and Cooperation, and the active efforts of Poland for the promotion of the process of detente and cooperation among states.

Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi informed Mr. Edward Gierek of the progress made by the Indian people through the implementation of various socioeconomic measures initiated by the Government of India, and their success in checking the forces of reaction and disruption.

The Prime Minister also informed the First Secretary of the initiatives taken by India in improving and expanding relations with the neighbours resulting in reduction of tension and promotion of cooperation in the sub-continent.

The First Secretary expressed admiration for the achievements of the Indian people in developing and strengthening their country. He also highly appreciated the foreign policy of India based on non-alignment, cooperation with all countries and the efforts it was making to improve relations and cooperation with its neighbours.

The two sides expressed satisfaction that there had been a general relaxation of tensions in international relations and that the forces in favour of peace and democracy had grown stronger. They firmly believe that the relations between all states should be based on the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, renunciation of the threat or use of force, the settlement of differences through peaceful negotiations between the states directly concerned, non-interference in internal matters and development of mutually beneficial collaboration.

The two leaders welcomed the progress made in promotion of detente and cooperation in Europe and stressed the historic contribution made by the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. They expressed the conviction that in the interests of lasting peace, freedom and progress of nations, it is necessary to make constant efforts towards furthering the process of detente, extending it to other regions of the world and making it irreversible. The two leaders shared the view that detente would help promote solution of the problems of international security and disarmament.

The two leaders declared their full support to efforts for checking the arms race and for attaining general and complete disarmament, including nuclear disarmament, under effective international control.

Both sides reiterated that any agreement on disarmament should seek to ensure

peace and security as well as improved living standards for all nations by releasing vast resources which were at present being expanded on arms. Aware of the urgency of the need for disarmament measures, the two sides support the proposal to hold a World Disarmament Conference where all States could contribute in finding an early and satisfactory solution to this problem.

Both leaders emphasised the great role and contribution of the non-aligned countries in the struggle for peace and security for the establishment of a just international economic order, and against imperialism, neo-colonialism and racial discrimination. They hail with satisfaction the positive results of the Fifth Summit Conference of the non-aligned countries in Colombo in August 1976.

The two leaders stressed the importance of making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace. In this context they observed that the dismantling of foreign military bases in the area would contribute greatly to the promotion of peace and stability in the region.

Both Poland and India welcome the victory of the Vietnamese people won in a long and arduous struggle. The two sides hail the unification of Vietnam and express the hope that the Socialist Republic of Vietnam will soon take its legitimate seat in the United Nations Organisation.

The two leaders discussed the situation in Asia. They expressed the belief that the establishment of good neighbourly relations would make a significant contribution to the promotion of peace, stability and cooperation in the continent of Asia.

The two leaders welcomed the independence of several States in Africa achieved recently after long struggle by their national liberation movements. In particular they stressed the significance of the victory of the MPLA in Angola. They condemned all forms of colonialism and neocolonialism and declared their firm support to the struggle for freedom of the people of Zimbabwe and Namibia and against the evil and inhuman practice of apartheid in South Africa.

The First Secretary and the Prime Minister expressed their strong support for a just solution in West Asia based on the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to form their own State, and the right of all States in the region to exist. Both sides support the resumption

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of the Geneva Conference on West Asia with the participation of all parties concerned, including the representative of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation.

Both sides stressed the necessity of strengthening efforts to solve the Cyprus problem on the basis of respect for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and the policy of non-alignment of the Republic of Cyprus and in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions.

The two sides agreed that the United Nations had an important role to play in safeguarding peace and promoting international cooperation. They reaffirmed the determination of their two countries to continue their efforts for the strengthening of the United Nations and reiterated their faith in the principles and purposes enunciated in the United Nations Charter.

The First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party expressed deep appreciation and gratitude for the friendly and warm reception accorded to him, Madame Gierk and his party during his visit, which was a manifestation of the high esteem and regard the Indian people have for the people of Poland. He extended a cordial invitation to the Prime Minister of India, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, to visit Poland. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

POLAND INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM BHUTAN FINLAND SRI LANKA VIETNAM ANGOLA
ZIMBABWE NAMIBIA SOUTH AFRICA ISRAEL SWITZERLAND CYPRUS

Date : Jan 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

ROMANIA

Indo-Romanian Joint Communiqué

Following is the text of the joint communiqué issued at the conclusion of the official visit of Shri Y. B. Chavan, Minister of External Affairs, to Romania on January 19, 1977:

At the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Romania, George Macovescu, the Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India, Yashwantrao Balwantrao Chavan, paid an official visit to the Socialist Republic of Romania over January 15-19, 1977.

During the visit, the Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India, Y. B. Chavan was received by the President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Mr. Nicolae Ceausescu. On that occasion, Y. B. Chavan conveyed to the President of the Socialist Republic of Romania and to Mrs. Elena Ceausescu a message of cordial greetings and best wishes for personal good health and happiness, for the ever greater success, the prosperity and peace of the friendly Romanian people, on behalf of the President of the Republic of India, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed and the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Mrs. Indira Gandhi.

Expressing warm thanks for the message, the President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Nicolae Ceausescu, asked the guest to convey to the President of the Republic of India, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed and to the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, on his own behalf and on that of Mrs. Elena Ceausescu, warm

greetings, good wishes for personal health and happiness, for the peace, prosperity and progress of the friendly Indian people.

During his stay in Romania, the Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India, Y. B. Chavan, was received by the Prime Minister of the Government, Mr. Manea Manescu; on that occasion there took place an exchange of messages of greetings between the Prime Ministers of the two countries. The Indian Foreign Minister also met Mr. Ion Patan, Vice Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Trade and International

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Economic Cooperation. He visited several social-cultural units and historical sites in Bucharest as well as in the countries of Braso and Prahova.

The Foreign Minister of the Socialist Republic of Romania and the External Affairs Minister of the Republic of India conducted official talks on the present stage and the prospects of the development of the bilateral relations; they had a wide exchange of views on the main international issues. During the talks - held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere of perfect understanding and mutual esteem - they emphasised with particular satisfaction the identity or close similarity of the viewpoints of both countries concerning the problems discussed.

Both sides underscored the fact that the meetings and talks that took place in recent years between the leaders of the two countries are of decisive importance for the furtherance - on multiple plans - of the Romanian-Indian relations of friendship and cooperation.

The two Foreign Ministers underlined with satisfaction the fact that the relations between Romania and India are being continuously strengthened and diversified while the provisions of the economic, technical, scientific and cultural understandings agreed upon during the high-level visits as well as the provisions of the other bilateral agreements are being carried out successfully. They particularly stressed the development

of bilateral economic relations as a result of the remarkable progress achieved by the national economies of the two countries, of their complementary character - a fact that has paved the way for the further diversification and intensification of Romanian-Indian relations in the domain of commercial interchanges and cooperation in the industrial and agricultural production.

The two Foreign Ministers also reiterated the desire and determination of their countries to further promote active cooperation in the economic, technical, scientific, social and cultural fields, stressing that the ascending course of Romanian-Indian friendship and cooperation fully serves the interests of the Romanian and Indian peoples, as well as the cause of international understanding, cooperation and the ensuring of world peace and security.

Discussing international issues, the two Ministers pointed out the profound and positive changes that have taken place in recent years in favour of progressive, anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist forces, of democracy and socialism, the determination of peoples to build up their future freely and in keeping with their inalienable national rights and interests, to make their own contribution to the liquidation of all forms of domination and oppression and to the establishment of relations of equity and justice among all states of the world. The two sides reasserted the need for placing at the basis of those relations the principles of strict observance of national independence and sovereignty, territorial integrity, fully equal rights, non-interference in domestic affairs, renunciation of force and of threat of force, and mutual benefit.

Reviewing the state of the world economy and of the inter-state economic relations, the two sides recognised the existence of grave and complex problems which await an urgent solution, in the interest of all states and of international peace and security. The gaps between the developing countries and the developed ones have increased further, the problem of energy and of raw materials has become sharper, the food crisis remains

chronic in vast areas of the earth; price fluctuations continue to affect adversely the economies of the developing countries, the world financial system needs improvement and international economic collaboration is hindered by artificial obstacles like discriminatory barriers and practices. In this context the two foreign ministers, while reaffirming the positions of their countries, called for the establishment of a new international economic order which should ensure the liquidation of underdevelopment and of the gaps between the developing countries and the developed countries, guarantee the right of each people to dispose freely of its riches, ensure the necessary conditions for achieving wide and fruitful international cooperation and lead to a more rapid progress under conditions of full equity and justice of all countries and peoples and, first of all, of those lagging behind economically.

During the talks, the two Foreign Ministers emphasized the outstanding importance of general and complete disarmament and first of all, of nuclear disarmament for the

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securing of international peace and security, stressing the necessity of concrete and effective measures in this field. In this context, the two ministers welcomed the decision of the U.N. General Assembly to convene a special session devoted to the problems of disarmament and pointed out the urgent necessity of its thorough preparation for making it successful.

The Romanian Foreign Minister informed about the situation in Europe, the preoccupations of the Romanian Government in this respect and the necessity that all the signatory states should observe the principles and provisions of the Final Act of the European Conference on Security and Cooperation. The two Ministers consider that the building of a system of European security and cooperation will have a positive influence upon peace, security and cooperation throughout the world and emphasised that the process of cooperation and relaxation of tensions should also extend to the other parts of the world.

The two Ministers expressed the view that the transformation of the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace and cooperation would contribute greatly to the promotion of understanding and stability in the region and will have a positive influence on world peace and security.

The two Ministers underlined the necessity of intensifying the efforts of all parties concerned for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in West Asia, based upon the complete withdrawal by Israel from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, the recognition of the legitimate national rights, including the inalienable right to form their own state, and the right of all states in the region to independent existence in peace and tranquillity.

The two sides expressed their total opposition to racism and apartheid and to the minority racist regimes in Southern Africa. They reiterated their support to the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia in their struggle, for liberation.

The two sides welcome the decisions of the Fifth Non-aligned Summit held in Colombo in August 1976 and the positive contribution made by it to international cooperation and understanding. They stressed that non-alignment is an important force in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism and other forms of oppression and exploitation and emphasised the important role of the non-aligned movement in the assertion and consolidation of the principles that should govern inter-state relations.

The two sides agreed that sustained efforts should be further made for the strengthening of the U.N. role in promoting the cause of peace, security and international cooperation, considering that the world forum should become a more effective instrument in the rapid settlement of the international issues confronting mankind nowadays. At the same time they expressed the determination of the Romanian and Indian Governments to strengthen their cooperation at the

international level.

The two sides appreciated that the official visit to the Socialist Republic of Romania by the Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India had made an important contribution to the furtherance of the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. The Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India, Y. B. Chavan, expressed sincere and cordial thanks for the warm reception and hospitality extended to him during his visits to Romania which reflect the feelings of close friendship and cooperation existing between the two countries and peoples.

The Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India, Y. B. Chavan invited the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Romania, George Macovescu, to pay an official visit to the Republic of India. The invitation was accepted with pleasure, the date of the visit is to be established subsequently.

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OMAN ROMANIA USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC ISRAEL NAMIBIA ZIMBABWE SRI LANKA

Date : Jan 01, 1977

Volume No

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SRI LANKA

India-Sri Lanka Credit Agreement

The following press release on the India-Sri Lanka credit agreement was issued in New Delhi on January 19, 1977:

India has agreed to extend a new credit of Indian Rs. 70 million to Sri Lanka. An agreement to this effect was signed here to-

day by Shri R. N. Malhotra, Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs on behalf of the Government of India and Shri S. Velayuthan, Director of External Resources, Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs, on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka.

The credit will be utilised for purchasing various items from India, including commercial vehicles, industrial, construction and General purpose machinery, electrical and telecommunication equipment, agricultural and fisheries equipment, railway equipment and steel billets.

In the past also the Government of India have been extending credits to Sri Lanka to assist in the developmental efforts of that country. The last credit was extended in February 1976 for a value of Rs. 50 million.

SRI LANKA INDIA USA

Date : Jan 01, 1977

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UNITED KINGDOM

British Grants of over Rs. 170 Crore for India

The following press release on the British grants of Rs. 170.39 crores for India was issued in New Delhi on January 27, 1977:

Five agreements for British grants of Rs. 170.39 crores to India were signed here today by Mr. J. Thomson, the British High Commissioner, and Dr. Manmohan Singh, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. With these five agreements Britain has fulfilled the pledge of

Rs. 170.39 crores ((pond)112.1 million) made at the meeting of the Aid India Consortium in Paris in May 1976.

These agreements comprise Rs. 106.40 crores ((pond)70 million) for maintenance aid, Rs. 18.39 crores ((pond)12.1 million) for debt re-financing and Rs. 15.20 crores ((pond)10 million) each for major projects, for the import of capital investment goods, and for the coal and power Sectors. The entire assistance under these agreements is in the form of grants. In addition, Britain expects to spend some Rs. 7.60 crores ((pond)5 million) on technical cooperation in India in the current financial year.

The maintenance grant will be used for the import from Britain of maintenance goods including spares, components and commodities. The debt refinancing grant, which is untied, represents about 45 per cent of the total value of debt services due this year from India to the U.K. The remaining three capital grants are intended for the purchase of a wide variety of British capital equipment.

INDIA FRANCE USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Jan 01, 1977

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Date : Feb 01, 1977

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BANGLADESH

Indo-Bangladesh Joint Press Statement on Trade Talks

Following is the text of joint press statement issued at the conclusion of Indo-Bangladesh trade talks in Dacca from February 9 to 11, 1977:

In accordance with the provisions of Article XII of the Trade Agreement between Bangladesh and India, delegations of the two countries met at Dacca between 9th and 11th February, 1977 to review trade between two countries in the year 1975-76. The Bangladesh delegation was led by Mr. Matiur Rahman, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Bangladesh and the Indian delegation was led by Dr. P. C. Alexander, Secretary Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India.

During its stay in Bangladesh, the Indian delegation called on Mr. Saifur Rahman, Member President's Council of Advisers in charge of Ministry of Commerce. The delegation also met separately Secretary, External Resources Division and Secretary, Industries and discussed matters of mutual interest.

In the context of the Agreement to increase the volume of trade on both sides on a mutually advantageous basis it was noted that whereas exports from India to Bangladesh had increased from Tk. 54.93 crore in 1973-74 to Tk. 64.58 crore in 1975-76, exports from Bangladesh to India declined from Tk. 14.52 crore in 1973-74 to Tk. 5.99 crore in 1975-76. There is a scope for increasing the level of trade both ways. While thereafter there has been some improvement in export from Bangladesh it was agreed that there is a need for special effort to increase exports from Bangladesh to India. India agreed to purchase the following quantities

mentioned against each for the year 1977:

- a) Newsprint - 5,000 tons
- b) Molasses - 15,000 tons
- c) Naptha - 20,000 tons
- d) Furnance Oil - 20,000 tons

Both sides also indicated quite a number of other items of export interest such as jute, chloroquin di-phosphate, iron and steel, plant and machinery in which trade could take place between the two countries subject to import control regulations in force from time to time.

Both sides agreed to take steps to convene at an early date the meeting of the Transport Coordination Committee at policy level to identify transport bottlenecks.

An agreed minute was signed at the end of talks on 11th February, 1977 by the respective leaders of the delegations.

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Date : Feb 01, 1977

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EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

India-EEC Accord on Scientific Cooperation

The following press release on the India-EEC agreed minutes on cooperation in science and technology was issued in New Delhi on February 5, 1977:

Agreed minutes for cooperation in the field of Science and Technology between India and the European Economic Community were signed here today. The minutes relate to the first meeting of the joint India-EEC Action Defining Committee in New

Delhi from February 1-5, 1977. The EEC delegation was led by Dr. G. Schuster, Director General for Research, Science and Education and the Indian delegation by Dr. R. D. Deshpande, Director International Affairs, Department of Science and Technology.

The Meeting considered three major areas of:

- new energy sources (especially solar energy);

- environmental research and remote sensing; and

- scientific and technical information.

and identified the following as mutually used areas for cooperation:

- Networking - Sectoral Information Systems.

- Development - Industrial Applications of Research Results.

- Development of Information Tools, and

- Techniques - Education and Training.

It considered the proposal for undertaking a joint study project between India and the EEC to evaluate different coal gasification processes and systems with a view to establish the techno-economics of the more promising processes and systems for Indian and EEC situations. It was agreed that cooperation might best take the form initially of exchanges of publications, visits by experts to study each other's programmes and the reciprocal use of existing facilities. Both delegations were convinced that it would be desirable in a second phase to define and implement further joint research programmes.

The Committee recommended that for each of the fields covered, India and the EEC should appoint coordinators.

Later addressing a Press Conference Dr. Deshpande hoped that EEC and India will work in mutual partnership. Dr. G.

Schuester referring to coal gasification said a joint-study of various coal gasification systems would be made so as to choose the best one for which India and EEC could cooperate. As regards remote sensing, it was felt that India has experts and instruments for this job.

INDIA USA

Date : Feb 01, 1977

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INDIA AND THE UNITED NATIONS

Shri R. Jaipal's Statement in Security Council on Complaint by Benin

Following is the text of statement of Shri R. Jaipal, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, on the complaint by Benin in the Security Council on February 8, 1977:

May, I congratulate you on your assumption of the office of the President of the Security Council during this month and extend to you our best wishes and cooperation for your success. There is of course no doubt that you will conduct the business of this Council briskly and efficiently. If I may say so, there is in your personality the right proportion of conservatism and pro-

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gressivism which makes me feel that the Security Council is in good hands.

May I also say that I wish to associate my delegation with the well-deserved tribute paid by you to your distinguished predecessor, the Ambassador of the Soviet Union, who carried out his burdensome responsibilities last month with great charm and considerable competence.

Now, Sir, as to the complaint before the Council, we have listened with anxious attention to the statement of the distinguished representative of Benin. We have also listened carefully to the statements made yesterday by the distinguished representatives of Algeria, Rwanda, Guinea and Madagascar. The facts presented by the Representative of Benin have not been controverted. They have in fact been confirmed by press reports. According to these facts, there was a blatant attempt by unidentified persons from outside Benin to overthrow the Government of Benin by the use of armed force.

We accept the facts presented by Benin and they do not need verification. Ordinarily, we would not consider it necessary for the Security Council itself to carry out an on-the-spot investigation. But in this case because the government of Benin has specially asked the Council to send a fact finding mission, we are disposed to support its request. It is fortunate indeed that Benin was able to repel the attackers, who thereupon disappeared into thin air. The question that troubles us is - supposing they had succeeded in their objective, their identity would have been known by now and would their success make them acceptable?

Questions of principle are involved as well as questions of responsibility. This is a clear case of the use of force from outside against the territorial integrity of the State of Benin, an infringement of its sovereignty and a violation of the U.N. Charter. What is not clear, however, is the identity of the persons who perpetrated this act of aggression. Mere description of these persons as "imperialist mercenaries" is simply not good enough. We hope that efforts to identify them will be successful.

It is of course possible for these unknown persons to operate without even the knowledge, much less the assistance, of other Governments. Such clandestine operations are becoming a new disturbing phenomenon and seem to be part of a general design to topple regimes that are not acceptable to certain quarters. Such undercover activities constitute a dangerous aspect of external in-

interference in internal affairs of states. The Colombo Summit of Non-Aligned States condemned such actions as being inconsistent with the Charter.

We cannot fail to be impressed by the statements made by several African States, who referred to the vulnerability of small States to externally based attacks on their stability and security. We have heard that mercenaries are being recruited and trained abroad for such purposes. Clearly foreign agencies are involved, even though foreign governments may be unaware of such activities. Nevertheless, it raises important questions of international responsibility for such situations. Where do these mercenaries come from and where do they go to? What are their motivations? Is it simply the profit motive, or is it the political motive that underlies their operations? The Security Council clearly has a responsibility to see that the provisions of Article 2(4) of the Charter are observed. What can the Security Council do to deter and prevent such attacks in the future? Specifically what should member States of the UN do in order to ensure that the provisions of Article 2(4) of the Charter are scrupulously observed? Answers to these questions have to be found, because the U.N. is now largely an organization of small vulnerable States, who joined the United Nations mainly for the protection of their sovereignty and territorial integrity. We hope that the Debate on the complaint of Benin will initiate steps which would lead to the evolution of international law providing for adequate measures designed to check and liquidate the danger from mercenaries who engage in conspiracies to overthrow established regimes.

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INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC ALGERIA GUINEA MADAGASCAR RWANDA SRI LANKA

Date : Feb 01, 1977

Volume No

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JAPAN

Japanese Project and Commodity Loans for India

The following press release on the Japanese project and commodity loans for India was issued in New Delhi on February 18, 1977:

The Governments of Japan and India exchanged here today Notes concerning the Project Loan for an amount of 9 billion Yen (equivalent to Rs. 27.86 crores at the current exchange rate) and the Commodity Loan for an amount of 10 billion Yen (equivalent to Rs. 30.96 crores at the current exchange rate) to India for the year 1976-77.

The Notes were exchanged between His Excellency Mr. Takashi Suzuki, Ambassador of Japan to India and Dr. Manmohan Singh, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.

The Project Loan is to be utilised for the development of telecommunications in India during the Fifth Five Year Plan.

The total commitments to India by Japan under the 16th Yen Credit, including the debt Relief Loan for an amount of 12.2 billion Yen (equivalent to Rs. 37.78 crores) agreed on November 30, 1976 would be 31.2 billion Yen (equivalent to Rs. 96.60 crores at the current exchange rate) for the year 1976-77.

Both the Project and Commodity Loans will be extended by the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan which has taken over the extension of Yen Credits to India from the Export-Import Bank of Japan.

The interest rate of the Project Loan will be 3.5 per cent as compared to the interest rate of 4 per cent for previous project loans. The rate of interest in respect of the Commodity Loan will be the same as for

1975-76, 'namely, 3.5 per cent. Both the Loans will be repayable over a period of 30 years including a ten year grace period as compared to the previous loans which had a maturity period of 25 years including a seven year grace period.

These loans will be untied in favour of procurement in developing countries and will be used to cover payments in respect of import of goods and services not only from Japan but also from developing countries.

These Project and Commodity Loans are extended to India in response to the request made by the Government of India at the Aid India Consortium meeting held in Paris in May 1976 and with a view to contributing to the economic development of India.

JAPAN INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA FRANCE

Date : Feb 01, 1977

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MALAYSIA

President Ahmed's Speech at Banquet in his Honour at Kuala Lumpur

The President, Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, made the following speech at the State Banquet in his honour given by the King of Malaysia at Kuala Lumpur on February 6, 1977:

I am overwhelmed by the Kind thoughts and generous sentiments which Your Majesty has just expressed towards me and the people of India. As Your Majesty is aware, I am not a stranger to this beautiful land. Indeed, I had the privilege of representing my Government at your Independence Day celebrations in 1965 and later at the inauguration of your magnificent mosque and the

international airport. Even though this was a decade ago, the memories of my pleasant stay and your generous hospitality are still fresh in my mind.

Your Majesty, neither are India and Malaysia strangers to each other. The two peoples have known each other since times immemorial. Thus it is that they came to share many vital elements in their cultural ethos, in their ways of life and thought (Even Islam reached Malaysia from outposts on the Indian soil). On Asia's resurgence from Western domination, both of us emerged from the dark night of colonialism almost simultaneously and have been engaged since then in building a new life for our peoples. In this period of nation-building, our relations have been marked by friendship and cordiality which have found expression in close co-operation in many fields of human activity, and close support in times of crisis.

Your Majesty, Ladies and Gentlemen, we in India have noted with great satisfaction and admiration the tremendous economic advance Malaysia has made since independence. We have also noted that among the principle objectives of the III-Malaysia Plan is the eradication of all disparities and the equitable distribution of national wealth. It brings to my mind the thinking of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our Nation, that wealth is not for private consumption but a trust for the benefit of all the people. Development planning in India has also been oriented towards the same objectives.

May I take this opportunity to pay my tribute to the national leadership of Malaysia and in particular to Tunku Abdul Rahman, the late Tun Abdul Razak and Prime Minister Datuk Hussein Onn for their foresight, vision and dedication in laying the foundation of modern Malaysia on the principles of democracy and universal humanism. This vision has been carried forward by your distinguished Prime Minister, Datuk Hussein Onn. Indeed, both India and Malaysia have tried to promote national integration within their multi-religious, multi-lingual and multi-racial societies, so that our citizens enjoy

equality of opportunity, without any discrimination whatsoever.

Your Majesty, we in India have also had some success in our struggle for economic development and social progress. The results that we have achieved since the promulgation of Emergency in June 1975 have been particularly heart-warming. Our economy has registered an unprecedented leap forward, both in terms of agriculture and industrial production. We have been able to control inflation. Our exports have shown considerable expansion. We have not only been able to meet the adverse consequences of sudden rise in oil prices but today our foreign exchange reserves have reached an all-time high. Above all, the Emergency has generated a sense of purpose and discipline which has permeated all walks of life. This has renewed our faith in the potential of our economy and the future of our people.

However, neither Malaysia nor India can remain content with their own achievements. The world has shrunk into, what has been called, a 'global village' and the destinies of all nations are inter-linked with each other as never before. The developing world aspires to become a real participant in shaping the future of mankind and to build a new international order in which sovereign equality of all nations is matched by just and equitable economic relations. I have no doubt in my mind that India and Malaysia, who have close identity of views on international questions, shall work hand in hand in the Non-Aligned movement and in world forums on the unfinished business on the agenda of mankind.

Your Majesty, my Government has, as you know, taken a number of initiatives to achieve a climate of peace and good neighbourliness in South Asia. These initiatives have borne some fruit. In the same spirit, we have welcomed the objectives and achievements of the ASEAN and in particular supported the Malaysian idea of a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality on South-East Asia. We appreciate Malaysia's efforts in favour of regional harmony and we have every hope that with the normalisation of relations

among all states of the region, the people of South-East Asia shall be able to devote themselves to build their future, free from external pressures. Indeed, very much the same rationale applies to the concept of Zone of Peace in the Indian Ocean which both of us strongly support. Above all the developing countries require nothing more than an environment of peace, free from tension, so

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that they can concentrate undisturbed on the urgent task of socio-economic transformation.

Your Majesty, may I take this opportunity to convey the cordial greetings and good wishes of the people of India to the people of Malaysia and to reiterate our desire to add new dimensions to our friendly co-operation.

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I request you to kindly join me in a toast, to His Majesty the Yang Dipertuan Agong and Her Majesty the Raja Permaisuri Agong for their health and happiness, to the progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Malaysia and to ever-lasting friendship between the two countries.

MALAYSIA USA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PERU MALI

Date : Feb 01, 1977

Volume No

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MALAYSIA

Speech by the King of Malaysia

Welcoming President Ahmed, the King of Malaysia delivered the following speech:

It is by the Grace of God and His Muni-

ficence that We and the Raja Permaisuri Agong extend our hospitality to Your Excellency and Begum Abida Ahmed on the occasion of your state visit to Malaysia. May We say how happy we and the Raja Permaisuri Agong are in welcoming you, Your Excellencies and the entourage from India to Malaysia.

Your Excellency, your visit here is indeed an honour to Malaysia, We and our government will spare no efforts in making Your Excellency's short stay with us a very pleasant one.

Your Excellency is no stranger to Malaysia. Before Your Excellency's elevation to your high office, Your Excellency had visited Kuala Lumpur during our anniversary independence celebration. Your Excellency is here now, as the Head of State of India, affording us greater significance and honour to the country and people of Malaysia.

We believe Your Excellency's visit to Malaysia this time while reminiscent of your Previous visit would further enhance the bonds of friendship between us and the people A our two countries. We hope this visit would add greater dimension especially towards achieving greater understanding and cooperation in all fields between our two countries. As Your Excellency is already aware India is our dear and old friend. The basis of our relationship stretches back to history. This relationship has been nurtured and developed, to the highest pinnacle of relationship between two independent countries.

Although the two countries differ in size and population we strive for similar goals and aspirations. Since independence our two countries have devoted energies in committing ourselves towards development and economic progress for the well-being and the safeguarding of our people. Our efforts are towards achieving greater success in all aspects of economic development so that our two people could live in happiness and prosperity.

As for Malaysia, the progress and

achievements that we have attained in almost twenty years of independence are greater than what was done in fifty years before our independence. All the development programmes implemented by the government amongst others have been aimed at strengthening the unity among our multi-racial society.

We are happy to state those people who have come from India to make this country their home, have also contributed towards the objective of the country in achieving unity, prosperity and peace.

We are convinced that, with understanding and unity, Malaysians of different races would continue to make Malaysia a strong and united country able to live in peace, prosperity and happiness.

Externally as we look around us to a scene of a troubled world, we realize that no country can exist on its own. We are dependent on one another. India and Malaysia

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have long taken the proper initiatives towards maintaining these bilateral relations.

In the international forum and bodies we are part of, our positions are similar in line with the principle of cooperation and international norms, especially in our efforts towards the reducing of regional tensions and conflicts in order to maintain peace and harmony. It is our belief that without peace, We cannot carry out all our efforts towards the implementation of development for the benefit and well-being of our people.

It is for these reasons that Malaysia is working resolutely towards the establishment of a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality in this region. Malaysia believes that the people of this region must be given the opportunity to live in freedom in accordance with their belief without interference from external forces. The concept which has been supported by all members of ASEAN and a majority of the members of the nonaligned countries can only be realised with the cooperation of the super-powers. It is our be-

lief that peace and stability is fundamental towards maintenance of the progress and prosperity of the countries and people of this region.

As we have already mentioned the bond of friendship between our two peoples has resulted in the close cooperation between Malaysia and India. India has in various forms collaborated with us in several economic activities which benefit the people of this country.

We are confident, Your Excellency, that as a result of your visit here the relationship between our two countries will find new depths and dimension in the coming years. We hope and pray that the people of our two countries shall continue to progress and live in happiness and prosperity.

Finally, may we now request the Hon'ble guests this evening to join us in a prayer to the good health of His Excellency President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed and to the continued prosperity and well-being of the people of India.

MALAYSIA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Feb 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

SAUDI ARABIA

India-Saudi Arabia Memorandum of Understanding on Electrification Project

The following press release on the India-Saudi Arabia memorandum of understanding on electrification project was issued in New Delhi on February 24, 1977:

Saudi Arabia has offered a big order for the implementation of an electrification pro-

ject in that country to India. This was the result of discussions held between the Saudi Arabian delegation and the Government of India. A Memorandum of Understanding to this effect was signed between the two countries here today. Dr. Ghazy Al-Gossaibi, Minister of Industry and Electricity, Royal Government of Saudi Arabia signed on behalf of his country and Shri T. A. Pai, Minister of Industry, on behalf of India. It was noted in the Memorandum of Understanding that a vast potential existed for cooperation between the two countries. Both India and Saudi Arabia have agreed to take necessary steps for further strengthening industrial cooperation.

The proposed electrification project in Saudi Arabia involves the generation, transmission and distribution of power in that particular region. The project documents were presented by Dr. Gossaibi to Shri T. A. Pai for detailed examination. He desired the participation of Indian companies in the implementation of this project. Shri Pai told

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Dr. Gossaibi that the project was well within the manufacturing and engineering competence of the Indian companies and agreed to the project being taken up and fully executed by Indian agencies. The project is being taken up by the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited in cooperation with other Indian companies in the public and private sectors. It is expected that the fruitful results achieved at this meeting will lead to further Indian participation in the industrial development of Saudi Arabia.

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Date : Feb 01, 1977

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Date : Mar 01, 1977

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DENMARK

New Indo-Danish Loan Agreement

The following press release on the new Indo-Danish loan agreement was issued in New Delhi on March 30, 1977:

An agreement for a new Danish Loan to India of Danish Kroners 80 million (approximately Rs. 12.5 crores at the current rate of exchange) was concluded here today. The Agreement followed talks held last December between and Indian Delegation and Danish International Development Agency at New Delhi.

The Agreement was signed for India by Dr. Manmohan Singh, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance and for Denmark by the Danish Ambassador to India H.E. Mr. PER W. FRELLESVIG.

This Loan can be utilised for import of a large range of equipment and capital goods such as boats and other equipment for the development of Fisheries and Fishery Industry, machinery for fertilisers, petrochemicals, cement and rubber industries,

electronics and electrical equipment, machinery and equipment for food processing, drying and storage, and machine tools for small-scale, medium and large scale industries.

The Loan is repayable over a period of 35 years inclusive of a grace period of 10 years and is interest free. It may be recalled that the last loan extended by Denmark in September, 1974 was also on the same terms.

Denmark has been extending assistance since 1963. Seven loans have been extended during this period. Of these, five loans totalling nearly Rs. 22.2 crores were general purpose loans while two were food loans amounting to Rs. 8 crores granted in 1966 and 1968. The total Danish financial assistance to India has so far been Rs. 30.2 crores, With the present loan, the total financial assistance would amount to Rs. 42.7 crores.

Denmark has also been providing technical assistance to India right from 1963 and several projects in areas of agriculture, dairy development, family planning, small scale industries, etc. have been taken up under this programme. The projects are placed in several States such as Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Kerala, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, etc.

Denmark has agreed to earmark an amount of D. Kr. 385 million (Rs. 60.53 crores) for technical assistance to India for, the five year period 1976-77 to 1980-81. This amount includes a provision of D. Kr. 22.78 million (Rs. 3.58 crores) for debt relief to India during 1976-79. The balance amount will be used to meet the requirements of both the ongoing projects as also the new projects such as Animal Husbandry, Tool room facilities for the small scale sector, family planning and equipment needed for the development of science and technology in India. A part of the assistance has also been earmarked for non-governmental projects.

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FRANCE

Press Note on Indo-French Colloquium

The following Press Note an Indo-French Colloquium was issued in New Delhi on March 5, 1977:

An Indo-French Colloquium was held under the auspices of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations at Azad Bhawan, New Delhi between March 3 and 5, 1977. This was the third such meeting, the first had been held in 1969 and the second in 1973. The present Colloquium reflected the desire of the participants on both sides to express their individual and sometimes divergent views freely in a spirit of friendship on a variety of subjects of bilateral and common interest to both countries.

The Indian side was led by Shri T. N. Kaul, President, Indian Council for Cultural Relations and included Dr. Y. K. Alagh, Shri P. R. Chari, Shri A. K. Damodaran, Dr. V. P. Dutt, Dr. Vijay Kelkar, Prof. Rasheeduddin Khan, Prof. Iqbal Narain, Rear Admiral M. K. Roy, Shri B. B. Vohra, and Prof. V. S. Vyar.

The French side was led by Prof Jacques Vernant and included Col. Jean Barthelet, Mr. Jean Paul Charnay, Dr. George Fischer, Mr. Paul Marie de la Gorce, Mr. Jules Leveugle, and Prof. Charles Moraze.

His Excellency the Ambassador of France in India Mr. Winckler was present during the discussions.

On Foreign Policy the French side ex-

plained the importance of France's position in the North Atlantic Alliance and the EEC in the context of her geopolitical situation. The French side emphasised that France's membership of the above organisations did not come in the way of her desire to play an independent and autonomous role. The French side explained at length the re-orientation of French Foreign Policy which occurred after the end of the Algerian war (1962) and was further reinforced by the Energy crisis (1973-74) and resulted in an expansion of French Foreign Policy priorities to include the countries of Africa, the Middle East, the South Asian countries and Latin America.

The Indian side explained three constitutional goals which also determined their Foreign Policy options. These postulates are: Democracy, Socialism, Secularism.

The Indian side emphasised the importance of continuity in Foreign Policy in the context of the maintenance of old links while forging new ones. India's relations with her neighbours have in recent times received a more vigorous thrust as a result of the lessening of international tensions. The Indian side also explained the importance India attaches to the principles and policies of Non-alignment and the concept of bilateralism as exemplified in the Simla Agreement (1972) the demarcation of maritime boundaries with Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. The Indian side reiterated the view that the Indian ocean should remain an area of peace free of military bases.

The Indian side stated that India was interested in using nuclear technology for developmental purposes only. A similar declaration by Nuclear Weapons Powers would create a better atmosphere for concrete steps towards Nuclear Disarmament. The NPT is discriminatory in character and gives a monopoly of Nuclear technology to Nuclear Weapons Powers. A non-discriminatory, comprehensive Test Ban Treaty applicable to all countries including Nuclear Weapons Powers would be desirable.

The French side stated that proliferation

raises problems of security; however non-proliferation cannot be considered as a step towards disarmament. In any case the above considerations ought not to constitute an obstacle to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes by those countries who have a capacity and the desire to do so.

In the discussion on self-reliance the French side emphasised the need of technological research at the highest level to solve emerging problems, The long tradition of Energy Planning in France was delineated. The Indian side reiterated the strategies and programmes emerging from her goal of self-

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reliance. Policies for development of the food economy, of critical intermediates including energy, and of the application of science and technology as in India's current Five Year Plan, were emphasised. Policies for population control, land reforms, and rural development, control of trans-nationals and the importance of Mahatma Gandhi's and Jawaharlal Nehru's contribution towards self-reliance were emphasised.

As regards international cooperation on the French side, the importance of the French language and of her cooperation in the areas of basic sciences was emphasised. International and monetary reform and the international debt question need to be considered in the context of developmental problems. The French side indicated the importance of the principles of "bilateralism" within international cooperation. The Indian side discussed the concrete aspects of international cooperation particularly in the areas of technology transfer, commodity markets, control of natural resources and cooperation between the developing countries as well as the steps to achieve individual and collective self-reliance. The role of India in finding practical solutions in some of these areas, given her resources, experience and technological capability was emphasised.

The two sides agreed that Indo-French Cooperation could be of crucial importance in cases involving the transfer of appropriate technologies which can be furnished by India

to countries in whom France has an abiding interest. It was also agreed that exchange of ideas and views in forums such as the present Colloquium would be helpful in the future towards identifying such areas of co-operation and in building Public opinion in favour of peace and cooperation. Both sides agreed that such Colloquia should be held regularly once every two years. The French side invited the Indian side to France for the next meeting.

FRANCE INDIA USA ALGERIA INDONESIA SRI LANKA MALDIVES

Date : Mar 01, 1977

Volume No

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FRANCE

Indo-French Agreement on Power Development

The following press release on the Indo-French agreement on power development was issued in New Delhi on March 10, 1977:

An agreement envisaging co-operation between India and France in the field of power development was signed here today.' The agreement was signed by Shri K. L. Puri, Chairman, Central Electricity Authority (CEA), and Mr. R. Jupillat, Director of Foreign Activities and Co-operation of the Electricite' de France (EDF).

The agreement signed today is in pursuance of the joint declaraton signed in January, 1976, by Shri K. C. Pant, the Union Minister for Energy, and Mr. Raymond Barre, the French Minister of Foreign Trade, envisaging promotion of co-operation in the field of electric power generation and transmission between Indian Central Electricity Authority and the Electricite' de France.

The agreement between the CEA and EDF provides for a collaboration covering exchange of information and documentation, study tours and training in organisations of the EDF and CEA and deputation of experts to India from EDF to advise on technical, economic and commercial aspects relating to the power supply industry. It also provides for studies of the problems relating to administrative, and commercial aspects and studies relating to commissioning and operation of Power plants and power systems.

The agreement provides for the representatives of both parties to meet once a year to draw annual programme for collaboration. It is expected that the first programme would cover areas of hot line maintenance of transmission and distribution net works, and instrumentation and automation and control of super-thermal power stations. In addition areas of development of bulb hydro plants and man-power development, cadre management and other matters of general interest are included in the programme.

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FRANCE INDIA USA

Date : Mar 01, 1977

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FRANCE

Over Rs. 62 Crore French Credit for India

The following press release on Rs. 62.22 crore French credit for India was issued in New Delhi on March 10, 1977:

The French Government, following the

negotiations held in Paris on March 8 and 9 has placed at the disposal of the Government of India, financial credits of French Francs 340 million (Rs. 62.22 crores) for purchase of French goods and services for the year 1977-78.

The financial facilities provided represent as usual a mix of French Treasury Loans and Bank Credits. There has been a further improvement in terms inasmuch as repayment period of the Treasury Loan portion has been increased from 25 years to 28 years. The credit will be utilised to the extent of French Francs 200 million (Rs. 36.50 crores) for Industrial Projects, and French Francs 140 million (Rs. 25.72 crores) for purchase of light equipment and other commodities.

France as in the previous years is the first member of Aid India Consortium to conclude the Development Assistance 'Agreement for the year 1977-78.

FRANCE INDIA USA

Date : Mar 01, 1977

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GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Indo-G.D.R. Trade and Payments Agreement

The following press release on the Indo-GDR trade and payments agreement was issued in New Delhi on March 8, 1977:

A new Trade and Payments Agreement for the period 1977-80 and the Annual Trade Protocol for 1977 and Long Term Trade Plan for 1977-80 were signed, here last evening, between India and the German Democratic Republic by Dr. P. C. Alexander,

Secretary Foreign Trade and H.E. Mr. F. Clausnitzer, Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade of GDR. The framework for the agreement and the Annual Protocol were earlier finalised here in November, 1976 by official delegations of both sides (which were headed by Shri Prem Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Mr. W. Bruckner, Director General, GDR Ministry of Foreign Trade).

The New Trade and Payments Agreement comes into force retrospectively with effect from January 1, 1977 and will be valid upto December 31, 1980. The new Agreement is substantially on the pattern of the existing Protocol which was concluded in 1971 in Berlin. The system of trade between the two countries continues to be on a balanced basis in non-convertible Indian rupees.

The first Trade and Payments Agreement between India and GDR was concluded in October, 1954 and since then there has been a spectacular growth in the trade between the two countries. The two-way trade has grown from less than Rs. 2 million in 1953 to nearly Rs. 800 million in 1976.

PROTOCOL FOR 1977

The Trade Protocol for 1977, which was also concluded along with the Trade and Payments Agreement, envisages a total trade turnover of Rs. 1237 million as against an expected turnover of Rs. 800 million in 1976. GDR has been an important source for our supply for fertilizer (muriate of potash), ships, cinematographic films, printing machinery and machine tools. GDR is to now supply urea also.

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In previous years India's main exports to GDR consisted of mostly traditional items like de-oiled cakes, tea, coffee, semi-processed hides and skins, cotton textiles, jute manufactures, etc. Of late, however, there has been an appreciable rise in our exports of non-traditional items like sanitary fittings, machine tools, finished leather products and hand tools. A major breakthrough has been

made in the supply of boot and shoe uppers to GDR in 1977 and Plan targets for export of uppers to GDR have been increased by nearly ten-fold as compared to provisions for 1976. Provision has been made for the first time for export of parts of motor vehicles, tractors and agricultural machinery and silver nitrate. India will also supply increased quotas of Iron Ore to GDR.

SELECTED COMMODITIES

Recognizing the importance of meeting each other's requirements on a long-term basis in order to introduce a stabilising factor in the trade exchanges, the two sides also signed a protocol for a long-term trade arrangement which would cover supply of selected commodities over the period 1977 to 1980.

The Trade discussions for the renewal of Agreement and Annual Plan and conclusion of Long Term Trade Plan were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere. Both sides emphasised the importance of further diversifying the trade pattern in order to ensure sustained growth of trade in the coming years.

INDIA USA GERMANY

Date : Mar 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Acting President, Shri B. D. Jatti's Address to Parliament

Following is the text of the Acting President, Shri B. D. Jatti's Address to the joint session of Parliament delivered on March 28, 1977:

I extend my felicitations to the members

of the new Lok Sabha and welcome you all to the joint session of the sixth Parliament.

On this occasion when we miss his benign and familiar presence my thoughts go to our late President Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, in whom we have lost an elder statesman, a wise counsellor, an experienced leader, and a perfect gentleman. We mourn his loss today and convey our sincere and heartfelt condolences to Begum Abida Ahmed.

The General Election just concluded has effectively and decisively demonstrated the power of the people, the vitality of the democratic process in India and the deep root that it has taken. The people have given a clear verdict in favour of individual freedom, democracy and the rule of law and against executive arbitrariness, the emergence of a personality cult and extra-constitutional centres of power. The election marks an important milestone in the evolution of our democratic polity into a healthy two-party system.

My Government pledges itself to fulfil in every way the mandate given to it by the people. In doing so, it will not take the people for granted or assume that they know nothing and that the Government alone knows all answers and solutions. The traumatic experience of the last two years during which many atrocities were committed on the people and they had to undergo untold sufferings and some have even died, has brought home the relevance of this.

Honourable members the new Government has taken charge only three days ago. It has not had the time to work out the de-

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tails of the various measures it intends to adopt. This will be done in due course during the year and placed before you. Nevertheless, there are some urgent tasks to be attended to and the Government will take them in hand immediately.

The most urgent task is to remove the remaining curbs on the fundamental free-

doms and civil rights of the people to restore the rule of law and the right of free expression to the Press. The external emergency proclaimed in 1971 has been revoked by me. The Government will also take the following measures:

(i) Having regard to the gross abuse to which the Maintenance of Internal Security Act has been put during the last two years, a thorough review of the Act will be undertaken with a view to repealing it and examining whether the existing laws need further strengthening to deal with economic offences and security of the country without denying the right of approach to courts.

(ii) Legislation will be introduced to ensure that no political or social organization is banned except on adequate grounds and after an independent judicial enquiry.

(iii) The Prevention of Publication of Objectionable Matters Act will be repealed. Immunity which the Press enjoyed in reporting the proceedings of legislatures will be restored.

(iv) The amendment to the Representation of the People Act which re-defined corrupt practices and afforded protection to electoral offences by certain individuals by placing them beyond the scrutiny of the courts, will be repealed.

During the course of the year, a comprehensive measure will be placed before you to amend the Constitution to restore the balance between the people and Parliament, Parliament and the judiciary, the judiciary and the executive, the States and the Centre, the citizen and the Government, that the founding fathers of our Constitution had worked out. This will include provisions to amend Article 352 to prevent the abuse of the power to declare emergency and of the relevant Articles, to ensure that President's Rule is imposed strictly in accordance with the objectives mentioned in the Constitution and not for extraneous purposes.

One of the very serious developments in

the recent past was the erosion of the freedom and impartiality of the media of publicity and information. My Government will take steps to restore to the media their due place in a democracy. Steps will also be taken to ensure that All India Radio, Door-darshan, Films Division and other Government media function in a fair and objective manner.

Nothing has roused public anger and resentment so much as the manner in which the family planning programme was implemented last year in several parts of the country. This has caused a major setback to the programme which is vital for the welfare of the nation. Family planning will be pursued vigorously as a wholly voluntary programme and as an integral part of a comprehensive policy covering education, health, maternity and child-care, family welfare women's rights and nutrition.

In the economic sphere, the Government is pledged to the removal of destitution within a definite time-frame of 10 years. Relative neglect of the rural sector has created a dangerous imbalance in the economy leading to migration of people from rural areas to urban centres. The farmer has been denied a reasonable and fair price for his products. Allocations for agriculture and related developments have been grossly inadequate and the need to improve conditions in the villages has received scarce attention. More than a lakh of villages do not even have the most elementary facilities for drinking water. My Government will follow an employment-oriented strategy in which primacy will be given to the development of agriculture, agro-industries, small and cottage industries especially in rural areas. High priority will also be given to the provisions of minimum needs in rural areas and to integrated rural development. To the extent possible at this point of time the Fifth Five Year Plan will be reviewed. The planning process will be revitalized and work on the Sixth Five Year Plan will be taken up without delay. My Government will announce at the time of the presentation of the final budget later this year the details

of the economic programme that is proposed to be followed.

I now come to external relations. My Government will honour all the commitments made by the previous Government. It stands for friendship with all our neighbours and other nations of the world on the basis of equality and reciprocity and will follow a path of genuine non-alignment. I am glad to say that my Government will be hosting a meeting of the Non-Aligned Coordinating Bureau early next month. My Government will also give very special attention to the strengthening of ties and economic and technical cooperation with all developing nations.

Honourable members, your present session will be a short one in which you will have to attend to urgent financial business - the supplementary demands of the Union and the States under President's Rule, and the vote on account regarding the General Budget, the railway budget and the budgets of States under President's Rule. A heavy and busy schedule ties ahead of you in the coming months. There is today a mood of expectancy in the country and I trust that you will cooperate fully in attending to the business that will be placed before you by the Government with thoroughness and expedition. I commend you to your tasks and wish you all success.

USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Mar 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND THE UNITED NATIONS

Shri J. S. Mehta's Speech at U.N. Water Conference

Following is the text of the speech made by Shri J. S. Mehta, Foreign Secretary and the leader of the Indian delegation to the U.N. Water Conference on March 16, 1977 at Mar Del Plata in Argentina:

Permit me to join the other delegates who have preceded me to felicitate you on your election to this office and to congratulate ourselves in having a man of such experience and ability to preside and guide us in our deliberations in this historic conference. We are grateful to the Government of Argentina for their meticulous arrangements and unstinted hospitality for this conference. Most of us here were delighted to have been transported from the winter or the summer of our northern climates to the agreeable warmth of your autumn on the banks of this Sunlit city lapped by inviting and unpolluted waters.

This meeting follows in a series of unique world conferences on food, habitat, population and environment. In all of them we see the new dimension of knowledge -- of physical and social sciences and all the sophistication of modern technology -- reminding the community of Nations of the perils and challenges which confront the human family on this shrunken planet. It is to my mind a fit occasion to acknowledge the role and for functional international co-operation, rationale of the UN and all its specialised agencies. These conferences have posed before us the common problems which underline our inter-dependence. They have helped to raise our sights above our national and immediate concerns and impelled us to think of the cooperative effort required to safeguard our common destiny.

Man's awe and struggle against nature is a story as old as history. Bountiful nature was god's everlasting mercy to man. But in the last century man had almost come to believe that he had conquered nature and unravelled the secrets to add to her bounty. For all our science and progress, the fury of the elements are still with us of which the volcanoes, the earthquakes, the floods, and the cyclones are frequent reminders.

What is new - and this we owe to the international exchange through such U.N. conference - is the knowledge that the bounty of our science can transform them to our immense benefit but can also pollute them or even destroy these elements and imperil our future. We are per force obliged to repudiate the old confident optimism in an inexorable progress through science. In humility we must return to the old worship of the elements, and bend our science and knowledge to husband and manage these finite resources of a finite world. We can do so only through a sense of international interdependence, and the imperative for earnest endeavours to build a new order for the enmeshed world. This would be only possible through a balance of national responsibility tempered by an awareness of the need for international cooperation. If we do not, not just the dreams of progress, but quality of life, in fact human survival may be jeopardised. We owe it to future generations to work earnestly with an urgent sense of shared destiny.

These thoughts come to mind in reading the excellent documentation prepared by the Secretary General of the Conference and his colleagues and consultants.

Mr. President, all of us gathered here are agreed that water is the key to man's survival and welfare. The first civilization - the Assyrian, the Babylonians, the Egyptian, the Chinese, the Indian and others -- were all fluvial when man abandoned his nomadic existence to settle on the banks of the great rivers and discovered the sciences of agriculture. Water created these civilizations and at times floods destroyed them and where man did not nurture the water cycle, there stand vast sandy deserts as a grim reminder of man's shortsightedness.

In India water has been regarded as a sacred and indispensable element for all religious ceremonies. The water of the seven rivers of India are invoked to come near, mingle and sanctify every auspicious occasion.

As I mentioned earlier, water was re-

garded as Nature's Divine Gift and an inexhaustible bounty. It is only recently, particularly in view of the pressure of population and the increasing and diversified requirements for industrialisation, that we have recognized that like land, water is fixed in volume and we can waste or pollute it only at our peril. It is abundantly clear that we will be compelled to drastically revise our practices, our laws and pattern of use for the efficient and optimal utilisation of this vital resource. We will also have to marry the strategy of its use to the overall priorities of social and economic development.

We cannot but recognise that each country, nay each region, has specific but changing patterns of water needs. And water priorities in the developing countries the preponderant use of water is for irrigation which accounts for more than 90 per cent of total consumption. This is because of the pivotal position that agriculture continues to occupy in their economies, both as the principal source of national income and the main source of employment. The pressure of population on land in these countries calls for both horizontal and vertical extension of areas that can be brought under cultivation and this means looking at water supply as the key input for maintaining the population food balance. The great pressure of urbanization in these countries can be mitigated only by developing rural areas and there is no way to develop the rural areas in many of these countries except by providing an assured irrigation facility.

In India, during the last 30 years of our independence, the population has more than doubled. So has the food production. This is largely due to the massive irrigation programmes undertaken during this period. In 1947, the area under irrigation was 19 million hectares. Today it is more than 40 million hectares. During a century and a half from 1800 to 1950, the total capital outlay on irrigation was one billion rupees. In the last 30 years we have invested on irrigation over 50 billion Rupees. The investment in 1977-78 alone will be over 10 billion Rupees. These figures exclude the efforts of individual farmers who are being helped and

encouraged to step up their investments. Through our irrigation projects we are adding to our cultivated areas at the rate of over 2 million hectares per annum.

The surface water resources in India has been estimated at 1360 million acre feet and ground water at 300 million acre feet. Our present level of utilization of these resources is less than 40 per cent of the known

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availability. At the end of our Third Plan period i.e. 1968-69 we had utilized 69.32 million acre feet of ground water. By 1978-79 this utilization will increase to 121.46 million acre feet. By about 2000 A.D. we estimate that all the water available would have been fully tapped for beneficial utilization. But even at that stage only half of the cultivated areas would be receiving water for irrigation- Even today, in some basins or sub-basins, every drop of water is being utilized and the minimal demand for more water cannot be satisfied.

In spite of all our scientific knowledge and the documentation before us, the stark fact emerges that round the world we still know little about the water resources available through precipitation, flow, and in the ground. This is particularly true of the developing regions. It is now being universally recognised that without an inventory of our water resources, without a systematic collection of data and the projection of our demands, we would not be able to formulate national policies for waters so essential for optimising the use of this valuable resource. It is important to launch a concerted global programme to assist the developing countries in this field.

In this, we in India have been carrying out an assessment of our water resources potential through a continuous process of measurement of our rivers, streams and lakes and the exploration of our ground water potential. But this is indeed a stupendous task. For example, we need to survey 2.5 million square kilometers for determining ground water availability. Out of this we have covered till now only 1.06 million square kilometers.

An understanding of the environmental aspects of utilization of water resources in its national, regional and international ramifications was provided by the U.N. Conference on Human Environment held in Stockholm in 1972. Though the developing countries do not face this problem as acutely as the industrialized ones, we recognize that, essentially the purity of air and the oceans is a global problem. We recognize that the environmental pollution poses a threat to human survival and, therefore, it is not too early even for developing countries to approach this problem in a systematic and well-coordinated manner. For this purpose, they will need not only additional resources but also the latest technology results of and research available in industrialized countries.

India's own national efforts to deal with the problems of water pollution had commenced much earlier than the Stockholm Conference but was still at an incipient stage. After a prolonged process of study and debate, we were able to enact in 1974 a legislation for controlling water pollution. The central water pollution control board and similar boards in most of our states have been established in terms of this legislation. In view of the vast magnitude of the task, we have been obliged to a selective approach, aimed at controlling pollution in the main streams in the country and maintaining them in a reasonably satisfactory condition of health.

If the impending crisis in the field of water resources has to be averted and the modest global targets established for this purpose achieved, the developing countries will require to mobilize or obtain massive resources. To give only a broad indication of the magnitude of the task involved, for improving and extending the present irrigation facilities in order to meet the minimum food requirement targets, as envisaged by the world food conference an amount by the year 1990 of 97 billion dollars at 1975 prices will have to be found. Barbara Ward, in an article in a recent issue of *The Economist*, has estimated that to provide adequate water for farming, pollution control and conser-

vation on a global scale, an investment of 30 billion dollars a year was necessary, which, she suggests, can be provided if 10 per cent cuts in arms spending were progressively transferred to investment in water and food.

In my own country, though we have been able to supply potable water to eighty per cent of our urban population, we have yet to cover ninety per cent of our rural population. To supply drinking water to our entire population by 1990 - the target date established by the U.N. Conference on Human Environment - we will need an investment of 160 billion Rupees between 1979 and 1980, or 16 billion Rupees per annum. As we are not in a position to mobilize or divert resources of this magnitude, here again we are compelled to adopt a selective approach and to cover only those villages

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which suffer from scarcity of water or where there is a heavy incidence of waterborne diseases. This limited target will involve more than doubling of our present level of investment from two billion Rupees to five billion Rupees per annum beginning from 1979. However, as the remaining villages already have dependable water supply, this approach will enable us to fulfil the target laid down by the Vancouver Conference as adequately and effectively as is possible within the framework of our development priorities and the actual needs in this area.

It is recognised that the resources required for meeting the global objectives in the field of water resources management and development have to come largely through the domestic efforts of the developing countries. However, these efforts must be supplemented by inflow of resources from the industrialised countries. In order to have maximum impact, such resources should be available as programme assistance and essentially for the purpose of mobilizing locally available manpower, equipment, research and other services.

To cope with the problems which the developing countries are facing in this field, they will be required to undertake a massive

programme of training, the development of technologies suited to their individual conditions, and the establishment of a network of institutional and legal infrastructure. At the same time, new forms and patterns of bilateral and multilateral cooperation among themselves as well as with the industrialized countries to share technology and experience must be established. Water management is a field where the sharing of experience between developing countries may be as important a constituent as the transfer of technology from the developed one. All such cooperation should be imbued by the social purpose of meeting the needs of the poorest and the under-privileged sections of the population, and must be based on mass participation.

Mr. President, in India these social objectives have been given high priority in our approaches and techniques for utilisation of water resources. Over the years, we have pioneered many labour-intensive technologies for harnessing our rivers and other Multi-purpose schemes. To quote only one example, stone masonry construction as opposed to concrete construction, is one of the distinctive contributions of India. In general, India today is in a position to develop and implement all projects, big or small suited to our diverse(-) climatic conditions using Indian material, Indian machinery and Indian expertise.

The field of ground water utilization, almost the entire requirement of drilling rigs, pipes, compressors and equipment for boring and deepening of open wells and for operating tubewells is now being met through Indigenous production. The same is the case with water lifting appliances. We have also built a considerable knowhow for the assessment of water resources, for water balancing and for hydraulic model experiments. The consultancy services we have built in this area are capable of providing not only technical knowhow but also undertaking turn-key jobs.

We have also built up a vast infrastructure of research and training institutions to cover all aspects of water development and

management. Most prominent among these is the central water and power research institute at Poona, which has been recognized as the Asian Regional Institute for Hydraulic Engineering and applied research. It has achieved notable success in tackling problems of river running, flood control, irrigation and canal Hydraulics, Ground Water, Tapping Navigation and Coastal Engineering. Among other important institutes are the Geological Survey of India, the extended network of our Meteorological Department the Central Water Commission, University of Roorkee and the National Institute of Environmental Engineering.

Though the demands of our own Water Development are gigantic, India has always considered it an obligation and a privilege to make available its experience and training facilities to other developing countries, particularly to Asia and Africa. Apart from thousands of civil and mechanical engineers afforded facilities in scores of our Universities, the Water Resources Development Training Centre and the International Post-Graduate Institute in Hydrology at the University of Roorkee were established primarily to meet the needs of advanced training of applicants and Government nominees

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from abroad. In-service training for more than 1000 middle and high level serving Engineers from Developing countries has been provided in these institutes along with on-project experience.

We have also undertaken surveys and prepared water master Plans, feasibility studies and project documents, and have taken up the design and construction of minor and major water and Hydel Projects in a number of friendly countries. This is in recognition that since management of water resources like that of pollution and poverty, ultimately transcends national frontiers, we must pool our knowledge and our technology. May I reiterate what experience we command - in the success and in its failure - is entirely at the disposal of the world community.

We sincerely recognise, Mr. President, that inter-dependence is an inevitability for the optimum utilization of the world water resources as for establishing a new world economic order. We are deeply aware that there are areas in which we ourselves need assistance on an urgent basis. Most prominent among these areas are system analysis, mathematical modelling, establishment of communication network for quick transmission of Data on floods, rainfall, and remote sensing. Moreover, we are in need of technology and intensified research and expertise on evaporation losses. We are particularly anxious to learn from the experience of other countries in the field of water harvesting and water conservation to contain desert encroachment.

Mr. President, the conference documents bring out that no continent commands as much water resources as Asia and yet our Continental Homeland has the lowest per capita availability for human consumption, Agriculture or Industry. Within Asia, the subcontinent to which India belongs, is characterised by many unique features. No comparable land or population mass is subject to such inundation and excess in one season of the year and dire shortage for agriculture and consumptive use in another. Only a visual experience can demonstrate the contrast between the fury of the floods, damaging land and property in the monsoons and the parched landscape with shortage of even drinking water for man and beasts in the dry hot summer which precedes it. It is this feature of our climate which for thousands of years has held a provision and conservation of water was synonymous with the tasks of a benign Government. It is, therefore, not surprising that few parts of the world have had such network of irrigation, of diverse kinds some dating back to the second century A.D., as in our subcontinent. The task before these countries after independence was to continue this age old tradition of Indo-Gangetic Civilisation.

With the growth of our population, the challenge we recognize is immense. But we look upon this challenge and even the features of our climate as our opportunity.

With waters available which can be harnessed, sunshine which is guaranteed to us and combined with experience, diligence and talent of our native peasantry, we believe that with the aid of modern technology, we can provide for our people the food for our needs, and the surplus necessary for our progress.

India, Sir, as you know, has many rivers which we share with our neighbours. Our subcontinent depends on the watershed and the snow-melts of the Majestic Himalayas. The Indus Basin on the one hand and the Brahmaputra and Gangetic system on the other bind India with her neighbours in economic and geographical interdependence. India is an upper Riparian for some of these rivers and a lower or middle riparian for the others. In order to harness the water resources of these rivers for the largest good of the Peoples of the Subcontinent, our quest has been for functional bilateral cooperation on the basis of mutuality of interest, understanding of each other's problems and where necessary the willingness to share sacrifices on an equitable basis. We have the institutional framework for cooperation with each of our neighbours. A considerable amount of investigative and directly beneficial work is being carried out. The flood forecasting network to avert disasters has regularly provided data to our neighbours.

Mr. President, we are deeply conscious of the nodal importance of water for the future welfare and progress of our country. We are equally conscious that the national efforts must harmonize with the global problems of water management and conservation. We are all neighbours when it comes to finite elements. The optimum and bene-

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ficial use of waters nationally and in functional cooperation with the international community is vital to the establishment of a new economic and social order and thus in turn for safeguarding our common longing for peace. Whether it be in the subcontinent, or in Asia, or in the entire globe, our common aspirations are for integrated economic and social progress, and so secure internation-

al stability. This requires the sharing of knowledge and a transfer of experience and resources. India for its part pledges its full cooperation in the realisation of these objectives and will bend even greater efforts to contribute to the plan of action which may emerge from the deliberations of this conference.

INDIA ARGENTINA USA PERU SYRIA LATVIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC TOTO SWEDEN

Date : Mar 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

\$20 Million IDA Credit for Agricultural Development

The following press release on \$ 20 million IDA Credit for agricultural development was issued in New Delhi on March 3, 1977:

Agricultural production in Orrisa will be assisted by a \$ 20 million credit announced by the International Development Association (IDA), an affiliate of the World Bank. The credit announced recently will finance agricultural development project in the State.

The project's main aim is to increase the production of food grains by strengthening agricultural extension and related research. Small farmers with limited financial resources but excess labour are expected to benefit greatly from the project's emphasis on efficient use of locally available resources.

Since ground water resources are very important to agriculture in Orrisa both in the short and long-term, the project also includes a three year programme of extensive geo-hydrologic investigation.

Other components of the project include support for exploration of promising low-cost innovations in shallow tubewell technology; improvement of land survey and land record systems in order to establish land ownership and tenancy as a basis for farm credit and land consolidation efforts; and strengthening of agricultural data collection and processing capabilities to facilitate agricultural planning and policy-making by the Government.

The \$20 million IDA credit will cover half of the total cost of the project, estimated at \$ 40 million. The other half will be borne by the State Government. The IDA credit is for 50 years, including 10 years of grace. It is interest free, except for a service charge of 0.75 per cent to meet IDA's administrative cost.

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INDIA USA

Date : Mar 01, 1977

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JAPAN

Indo-Japanese Commodity Loan Agreement

The following press release on the Indo-Japanese commodity loan agreement was issued in New Delhi on March 4, 1977:

A ten billion yen commodity loan agreement for fiscal 1976-77 was signed in Tokyo on March 3 by Mr. S. Okita, President, Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund and Mr. Eric Gonsalves, Indian Ambassador. The loan is repayable over a period of 30 years including a ten-year grace period at an interest rate of 3.5 per cent per annum. The

amount can be utilized for financing import of steel, equipment, components, spares and fertilizers.

Commitment to India by Japan under the XVIth yen credit agreement including the debt relief loan for an amount of yen twelve point two billion (equivalent to Rs. 37.78 crores) agreed to on November 30, 1976 would be yen 22.2 billion (equivalent to Rs. 67.74 crores). Including the present loan agreement, total assistance extended by Japan to India so far amounts to about Rs. 1069.03 crores.

Notes concerning the commodity loan agreement were earlier exchanged in New Delhi on February 18, 1977 between the representatives of the Government of Japan and the Government of India.

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JAPAN INDIA

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April

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Date : Apr 01, 1977

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BHUTAN

Shri Jatti's Speech at Dinner in Honour of King of Bhutan

The following is the text of the, speech by the Acting President Shri B. D. Jatti at the dinner given in honour of the King of Bhutan, in New Delhi on April 23, 1977:

It gives me genuine pleasure to receive Your Majesty in our capital as a leader of our friendly neighbour Bhutan. We have watched with admiration that in the short Period that you have assumed your onerous responsibilities how you are guiding your country and people through a dynamic programme of socioeconomic transformation in diverse fields.

It is a particularly happy sign that Your Majesty is visiting India soon after our

new Government has been elected by the Indian people. MY Government attaches particular importance to developing friendly and cooperative relations with all our neighbours. Your visit, although short, gives us an opportunity to reaffirm the unique links of friendship and brotherhood which so happily hold our two countries and peoples together. Additionally, the discussions which you are having with our leaders will be a further contribution to increasing the abiding spirit of trust and confidence that our two Governments have in each other, to further enhancing the mutuality of our relationship in every field and to strengthening the existing warm and special relations. It is our privilege to be a partner in your plans of development.

Let me take this opportunity, Your Majesty, of once again reiterating the closest friendship and understanding of the Government and the people of India for the Government and people of Bhutan.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I request you to join me a toast to the health, long life and happiness of His Majesty, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Bhutan, further strengthening of Indo-Bhutan relations in all fields, and progress and prosperity of the people of our region and to world peace.

BHUTAN INDIA USA

Date : Apr 01, 1977

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BHUTAN

King of Bhutan's Reply

Replying, His Majesty jigme Singye

Wangchuck delivered the following speech:

The warm welcome and the great love and affection which I have received from everyone ever since my arrival here this morning has touched me deeply. It is always a great pleasure to be in India and to meet our good Indian friends.

Close bonds of friendship, understanding and cooperation between India and Bhutan which we cherish so greatly have been established during the past thirty years. This is as it should be between two neighbours sharing common interests, ideals and aspirations. It shall be my constant endeavour, as I know it is that of the leaders of India, to work for a further strengthening of these bonds. The tradition of friendship and trust which has been established between our two countries must be further consolidated in the coming years.

During the course of my stay in New Delhi, I look forward to exchanging views

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with His Excellency the Prime Minister and his colleagues in the Government of India on matters of mutual concern and interest. His Excellency the Prime Minister is no stranger to Bhutan, for we had the honour of receiving him in our country in 1968 when he was the Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister. My late Father always had the greatest respect and affection for him. India is indeed fortunate to have a leader of such outstanding calibre and dedication to guide her destiny at such a challenging period in her history. I have no doubt that he will also make a significant personal contribution to the promotion of a still deeper trust and friendship between our two governments and peoples.

Excellencies, may I request you to raise your glasses and join me in a toast to the health and long life of His Excellency the Acting President of India and to enduring friendship between India and Bhutan?

BHUTAN INDIA USA

Date : Apr 01, 1977

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1995

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Shri Vajpayee's Speech at Dinner in Honour of F.R.G. Foreign Minister

Following is the text of speech made by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs of India, at dinner in honour of His Excellency Mr. Hans Dietrich Genscher, Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany and Madame Genscher, in New Delhi on April 20, 1977:

Mr. Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Government of India and myself I have great pleasure in warmly greeting the distinguished Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany and Mrs. Genscher. I also welcome Mr. Gruener, Minister of State and the other members of the delegation.

Your visit, Mr. Foreign Minister, takes place at a profoundly significant moment in the evolution of democracy in India, perhaps in the world. The people of this country have exercised their mature political judgement with a sense of history in a manner that bears witness to their inherent love of liberty. Not the least remarkable feature of the making of history in the last few weeks has been the peaceful and orderly manner of the change.

In welcoming you warmly, Mr. Foreign Minister and Madame, we invite you to participate in our general rejoicing that the triumph of the democratic tradition has given the people's mandate to a Government which has been too long in the opposition but

which is firmly committed to policies of economic and social uplift of the masses at home and of strengthening world peace through cooperation and friendship abroad.

You come here as the representative of a people for whom, the people of India have much admiration. I wish to underline our appreciation of the generosity of the German people in our efforts to develop the country and I wish to tell them, through you, that the Government of India is determined to pursue policies aimed at eradicating poverty, providing productive employment for every citizen and assuring him of equality of opportunity and the fruits of progress. We are encouraged in our endeavours by the example of Gel-man fortitude which survived the holocaust of the war and the privations of its aftermath to take the country in such a short span of time to a pre-eminent position among the group of industrially and technologically advanced nations.

Our ties with Germany are rooted in scholarship and deep regard for the contributions made by our respective cultures to mankind. German scholars opened the eyes of the world to the wisdom of Indian philosophy, displaying in the process their own intellectual sensitivity and imagination and their admirable capacity for painstaking research. In India there has always been deep

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interest in German culture and language and high regard for the undaunted people of your country who have faced crises with fortitude.

While the ties of sentiment and mutual respect for each other's contributions to civilisation are of long standing, the relations between our two countries attained new dimensions soon after the emergence of India to independence when India became one of the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with the Federal Republic. The hand of friendship that was extended by us warmly grasped and I believe we can all derive much satisfaction from the manner in which this handclasp has grown in firmness and warmth since those days. Ours is a dynamic and positive relationship as shown

by the enormously varied range of contacts between us. It is based on shared values and is directed towards mutually beneficial ends. I am confident that on this healthy foundation, we will continue to build the edifice of our future cooperation, cooperation not only for the welfare of our respective peoples but also for making progress towards those international objectives which both of us cherish.

In our international relations, I wish to emphasise the commitment of the new Government in India to the principles and purposes of the U.N. Charter. Our faith in peace is the very basis of our civilisation. The concept of relaxation of tensions is a policy that India has consistently followed and advocated, whether in its neighbourhood or elsewhere. We remain fully committed to peaceful processes all round the world. We are determined to explore the prospects of promoting greater understanding and cooperation both in our bilateral relationships as well as in our multilateral dealings.

In the economic field we notice in Western Europe an increasing desire among countries to sink their differences and speak with one voice. We have faith that the Federal Republic of Germany will help to ensure that regionalism in economic matters will promote rather than retard the search for solutions to the vital economic issues that divide the rich and the poor nations. Our cooperation with the European Community and particularly with the Federal Republic of Germany, in industry or trade or science, represents a very important part of our international relations. We greatly value it and wish to assure you that this cooperation will be strengthened by us in a spirit of give and take.

I regard your visit, Mr. Foreign Minister, as an important landmark in the steady evolution of Indo-German friendship. We are happy that you have come here with a large delegation of luminaries from German economic life and the press. Though your visit is much too short we hope you will carry back some impression of a country which, having so tellingly reaffirmed its democratic traditions, looks forward with

hope towards a more prosperous future with a feeling of individual and collective involvement.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please join me in drinking to the health and happiness of the distinguished Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany and Mrs. Genscher and to abiding friendship between our two countries and peoples.

GERMANY INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Apr 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND ESCAP

Call for Review of the Kabul Declaration of 1971

The following is the text of statement made by Shri Mohan Dharia, Minister of Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation and leader of Indian delegation, at the 33rd Session of ESCAP at Bangkok on April 21, 1977:

Mr. Chair-man, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, may I join my other

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distinguished colleagues who have spoken before me in congratulating you, on my own behalf and on behalf of my delegation, on your election as Chairman of this 33rd Annual Session of ESCAP. With your vast experience and proven abilities we are quite sure that the onerous task of conducting the business of this session will be discharged by you with great success.

I would like to take this opportunity to also express our deep appreciation of the efforts of the Executive Secretary, R.

Maramis, and his Secretariat colleagues for the intensive work that they have done in preparing the background material for this Session. The coverage of the documents circulated is comprehensive and will undoubtedly be of great help in the deliberations in the coming days.

Mr. Chairman, this is the first International Conference I am attending after having assumed office as Minister for Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation in the new Government. I am sure the momentous events of the recent months in India are now-known to all.

The largest electorate among parliamentary democracies in the world consisting of 330 million voters exercised its right of vote and in this great battle of the ballot the country has emerged stronger, more mature and united. Despite the fierceness of the debate on issues of prime importance it has made its choice with a disciplined calmness and restraint that can leave no one in doubt about its abiding faith in freedom, liberty and democracy. It is truly in the fitness of things that I should have got this opportunity today to reiterate in this august Assembly, my country's commitment to the ideals of the United Nations and its faith in this regional organisation of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. I would like to emphasize my country's strong desire to co-operate and participate fully in the programme of those organisations which aim at preservation of peace and achievement of a prosperous and happy life for all peoples of the world. We are fully committed to the attainment of a new economic order which will achieve economic development with social justice within our own country as well as in the rest of the world. It is the very trust that our people have placed in us and we shall constantly strive to achieve these objectives.

Mr. Chairman, in our country as well as in most of the other countries of ESCAP, the development process must start at the grassroots level. With the preponderance of villages, it is this unit that has to be tackled in any plan of economic development. It is at the village level that active and purpose-

ful agencies must be evolved for establishing a self generating economy which will prevent the continuous flow of the people to urban centres, provide local employment and ensure rapid improvement in standards of living. Programme for integrated rural development thus becomes a crucial component in the strategy for economic development. This programme must ultimately aim at uniform and balanced growth of rural and urban economies and the benefits of economic development should not confine for a privileged few.

In this biennial review of the Second Development Decade from the material before us, it is clear that we are far from the goals that we set for ourselves and our targets remain unachieved. The secretariat has brought out an excellent economic and social survey. The conclusions drawn therefrom are, to put it mildly, quite depressing. It is clear that the targets for transfer of resources, growth expansion in production capacity in the agriculture and manufacturing sectors and the targets for growth of the social institutions have all remained unfulfilled. The ESCAP region undoubtedly comprises various groups of countries with considerable variations in standards, resources, potentials and levels of development. Generalisations would therefore, not be proper. However, on the basis of averages the achievements in the second development decade have been far below the expectations.

There may be some reasons explaining the gap between expectations and achievements. The disruption of the International Monetary system, serious inflationary pressures, rise in oil prices and severe recession may be some of the important reasons leading to these shortfalls. There is, however, no evading the fact that in real terms the growth of the region has not reached a level higher than what existed at the beginning of the decade. It is, therefore, necessary

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and expedient that we examine what has gone wrong and our discussion at this meeting is, indeed, most timely.

Mr. Chairman, in the various international forums there has already been a long debate on the role of developed countries in providing assistance to developing countries in their development efforts. The gaps in actual performance compared with the modest expectations have already been highlighted and the disappointment of the developing countries at these failures have been expressed repeatedly. Therefore, I do not consider it necessary to amplify these points here again today. I would not underestimate the need for mobilising domestic resources by developing countries for their own development efforts but at the same time I cannot overemphasize the need for external aid and availability of resources from developed countries for achieving the modest growth rates set out in the second development decade strategy. Developed countries have had their own problems but there is a ray of hope that with clear signs of economic recovery being visible they would henceforth play the role expected of them and the pace of transfer of resources would match the needs of the developing countries.

There can, however, be no escape from the need to reorient the strategy and greater emphasis will have to be placed on the concept of collective self-reliance amongst developing countries.

Mr. Chairman, our view of collective self-reliance amongst developing countries is not based on any idea of confrontation with the developed countries but rather of co-operation with them. The concept emphasises the belief that self-help must precede help from other. The developing countries in the region have in many ways great potential for assisting each other in their specific development programme. We must therefore explore to a greater degree than done hitherto, the possibilities not only of technical co-operation amongst developing countries, but of enlarging the scope of cooperation to cover all economic activities. From this point of view the approach in the documentation before us, where areas of cooperation in the various

economic sectors have been highlighted, is indeed welcome. I am sure that later, an indepth discussion of such possibilities of cooperation in these various sectors would be taken up during the session and specific programmes for such co-operation would be developed.

It is a matter of gratification that in the past few years there has been growing solidarity and unity among developing countries of the world. Deliberations in various international forum on common problems of development and on programmes of action for cooperation in dealing with these problems give a new hope to developing countries. Many of these deliberations have been of an inter-regional nature. Within the ESCAP Region also we must now strengthen the programmes of such cooperations. As I have said earlier, these measures would not be exclusive of other components of the strategy for development where the developed countries have to play an important role, but would be complementary, and could certainly strengthen the programmes; in which the developed countries play a significant role.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate India's commitment to such programmes of cooperation amongst developing countries. We have for the last thirty years made efforts to evolve our own systems and to develop patterns of development which were primarily designed to suit our own requirements. In the process we have acquired experience, of success as well as of failures, in the various sectors of economic and social development. We have in the past always been willing to share our experience with Other developing countries and reiterate our willingness to continue this process in future also. Similarly, we would like to benefit from the experience and expertise of other developing countries of the region. In the field of Agriculture and Community Development we have made considerable advance and we have evolved techniques which we feel with some marginal adjustments, could be found appropriate in the other developing countries of the region. The facilities of training and research developed in India, are at the disposal of all these countries. We

would always be happy and willing to provide information regarding technology and assist in the training of personnel in this field.

The technological advancement that we have achieved in the industrial sectors includes adaptation of technology imported from developed countries in order to suit the

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requirements of our own country. This technology, we feel, may be appropriate for other developing countries of the region as well. We would be happy to share this technology for the growth of the industrial sector of other countries.

In the field of trade, the process of the expansion of intra-regional trade needs to be hastened. The guidelines given in the Kabul Declaration where a charter was adopted for negotiations for liberalisation of trade, for working out arrangements for a clearing union and for setting up of an Asian Reserve Bank would now appear to require a review. Since the adoption of the Kabul Declaration many important changes have taken place in the field of international trade not only in the global context, but also in the region itself. New directions need, therefore, to be given to the programme for trade expansion within the region. It appears necessary that another meeting of Economic Ministers be held to review the progress made since the adoption of the Kabul Declaration and to lay down a programme for future expansion of trade.

Mr. Chairman, what the people need today is a happy, contented life fully utilising the aids which science has placed at our disposal. While the rich appear to be getting richer and the poor poorer, it is our belief that the developing poor countries should resolve with all determination to remedy the adverse development. I do not wish to under-emphasise the role that the rich play in assisting the poor. However, no country with self-respect could depend only on external assistance. We agree, as stated in the survey, that though the assistance from the rich need not be spurned, nor the hands proffered in friendship be ignored, the recent

and continuing crises have demonstrated that the bonds of mutual dependence grow from a common plight and common needs and thus the developing countries have to organise their own efforts and integrated cooperation with a sense of purpose leading towards the attainment of our long cherished objectives.

I would like to urge on the developed countries present here to appreciate the feelings of the developing countries ever rising aspirations of the younger generation and people from backward areas, stresses and strains on democratic processes and to join together in great endeavour to ensure social justice and economic well-beings to our peoples.

Mr. Chairman, our region has, in large areas, seen long conflicts. Now at least we have peace. National Governments are now free to take up programmes of development for fulfilling aspirations set out in the targets adopted for the second development decade. Let us all pledge to preserve peace. The basic requirement for the prosperity of mankind. Let us all strive hard so that the leeway of centuries is made up and in the great march for new order we forge ahead with speed.

INDIA AFGHANISTAN USA RUSSIA

Date : Apr 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT

Prime Minister's Inaugural Address to Conference of Foreign Ministers of Coordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Countries

Inaugurating the Conference of Foreign Ministers of Coordinating Bureau of Non-aligned Countries in New Delhi on April 7, 1977, the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai,

said:

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies,

On behalf of the Government and the people of India, I welcome the distinguished Foreign Ministers and other representatives of the group of Non-aligned nations who have come to participate in the meeting of the Coordinating Bureau. It has been the proud privilege of my country to be associated with this great and growing world movement from its small beginnings to its present strength. Over the years the non-aligned movement has grown despite a discouragement from certain quarters and today it can claim majority support of the world States.

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Most newly independent countries indeed more than half the world community, belong to the fraternity of the Non-aligned and our voice is being increasingly and effectively heard. This is a rate of progress on which we can congratulate ourselves. Non-alignment has thus become the mainstream of international life.

So far as India is concerned, from the very beginning of our freedom, in fact even before it, Non-alignment has been the logical and natural continuation of the struggle for independence. We fought for liberty at home and also freedom of action to serve our national purposes and international peace abroad. Non-alignment represents a national consensus and has become a national article of faith. During our recent general elections, there were many issues which were the subjects of fierce controversy. But the principles of Non-alignment and the essence of Foreign Policy were not among them. I have no hesitation in assuring Your Excellencies that India will remain Non-aligned in the real sense of the term. At the same time,, in our view we should so conduct ourselves as not to give the impression that we are a bloc like other blocs. We are an association governed by many a common interest and that is the bond that unite us. My government and I, therefore, welcome You today, distinguished representatives of the Non-aligned Movement, to our capital. Delhi, with

full enthusiasm, cordiality and sense of brotherhood.

This is the first international conference since the formation of the Government: in fact, it is the first major conference of Non-aligned countries ever held in Delhi. I cannot, at this moment, help remembering that the real banner of revolt against Imperialism was raised by Mahatma Gandhi against discrimination and injustice in the distant shore of Africa. It was also in Africa that the weapon of Satyagraha - of moral defiance through principal non-cooperation against injustice and suppression - was forged. It was in Africa too that the Mahatma recognised the universality of the struggle for freedom. The Mahatma and Jawaharlal Nehru and our leaders knew that our own freedom would not be secure until the torch of freedom had been lit in so many lands which were under foreign rule. Therefore, when India became independent, we considered it our duty and national interest to join in the struggle against colonialism, imperialism and racial discrimination in every possible international forum. Thirty years later, imperialism and colonialism, as we knew it, are almost dead. But racial discrimination remains rampant in some parts of the world. New forms of unequal relationships have replaced the old colonial domination. Therefore, the struggle for true independence of the human spirit must go on until the right to liberty and dignity in a new world order becomes a universal phenomenon.

The events in India, particularly of the last two and a half months, have been observed and commented upon in full freedom and in great detail by the international press. These may well have added to your interest in your present visit to our capital. I do not think it necessary - nor would it be appropriate for me to describe or explain our electoral issues or the functioning of our democratic system. Our nation has gone through the heat and fire of the electoral cauldron. The political leaders and parties subjected themselves to the freely expressed judgement of our people. Some 193 million people, which is as high as over 60% of the total electorate, voted of their free will to

choose 539 representatives to the Lower House of our Parliament. Despite the fierce debate in the exercise of the right of democratic dissent, we did so with discipline, peace and restraint. Out of the stress and strain of the election India has emerged stronger and united through this battle of the ballot box. We, my colleagues and I in the new Government, are overwhelmed by the trust bestowed on us and the burdens placed on our shoulders by our people. It is the discharge of this trust and the faith that they have placed in us which- will constantly claim our attention.

We have reaffirmed our faith in democracy and we have now to devise ways and means of living up to it. We have learnt from Gandhiji that there is no nobler quest than to work for justice and a-better life for one's fellow brethren. He taught us, too, that dedication to the service of one's people must not be a canceled lust for power. What the people need today is a happy contented life fully utilizing the aids of which Science has placed and will continue to place at the disposal of mankind. Life cannot be merely mechanised if the end is to be happiness and contentment. There has to be a moral and

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spiritual base for development along with its materialistic content. Freedom from want and Freedom from Fear have to be secured to make that base. We have dedicated ourselves to the task of achieving these freedoms along, with the right to liberty. In these freedoms lie the goal of true social and economic justice, regardless of class, caste or creed. We have to follow this oath and realise these ends: only then will we have redeemed our independence. We know it will be a long haul and decades of work and discipline lie ahead of us. But this will be our loadstar - the light that will guide us to the end.

Your Excellencies, I dwell on our Political faith before this international gathering because I believe that the struggle for Freedom from Want and Freedom from Fear must be the key to and inspiration for Our international latitudes. Non-alignment,

to my mind, engenders the Freedom from Fear in the realm of world politics. The relief of distress and want, we recognise is like peace, indivisible from the prevalence of want and injustice in other parts of the world. We know only too well that the worldwide battle against want is not gaining ground. I do not think we need indulge in the commonplace that the rich and the strong are getting richer and stronger. I firmly believe that self-help must precede help from others. As the saying teaches us, even for making certain of help from heaven one has to help oneself. It is true that technology is making rapid and significant advances. I also concede that the fragile economies of most developing countries are under greater strain than ever. We see manifestations of more unequal economic relations through multinational corporations, continuing disabilities for our trade and more formidable gaps in the availability of internal and external resources for our progress. The energy crisis, if anything, has made the problem for the non-oil exporting countries even more acute. Many conferences within the U.N. system and outside have analysed the international economic malady over the years and made their recommendations. But if we are to overcome these disabilities the first requisite is a massive effort by each one of us at home; there is no other way to make the best of what a country may get from abroad. There may be limitations of resources or technology or both. The challenge before the Non-aligned is to wage the battle against want through forging meaningful bonds of cooperation and collaboration among ourselves. We must persist on this path of solving our own problems rather than depend on the charity and benevolence of others.

In India, we have made some progress towards agricultural, industrial and technological advance. Our experience in creating a developmental and training infrastructure will be openly placed at the disposal of fellow developing countries. We have made some beginnings in establishing joint ventures, consultancy arrangements and other forms of developmental cooperation with many countries in Asia and Africa. We are proud

that over the years tens of thousands of students and trainees have been afforded facilities in our industries and scientific and training institutions. But what we have been able to do bilaterally is obviously not enough. We are prepared to do more. We are anxious to join in any multilateral initiative suggested by the Non-aligned Movement or any other international body to give greater content and shape to our programme. If Non-alignment is to have meaning we must have faith and commitment to such cooperation amongst ourselves. United and together the developing countries can give all of us strength to negotiate cooperative effort with the rest of the world. We clearly have to bend even greater will to share with and sacrifice for each other. Too many geographical, technological and economic factors are enmeshed and active in this changing and troubled world to permit any one country or group of countries to beggar their neighbours in sanguine isolationist complacency.

Every nation has a role to play in the new international system as part of the global decision-making. The programme of action worked out in Colombo marked a major landmark in the evolution of the movement. For the first time, an integrated outline was put forward and adopted unanimously. But this programme largely remains to be pushed into active implementation. I hope in your deliberations the programme and the fulfilment of economic targets of Non-alignment will be marked by a sense of urgency and determination.

Non-alignment has, of course, a special responsibility and role to address itself to the

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major international political problems even if they do not concern all of us. Since Colombo, continuing efforts have been underway to pressurise the racist and minority regimes in Southern Africa to see the writing on the wall. The so-called Government of Mr. Ian Smith cannot be allowed to thrive in defiance of international opinion. We must, therefore, renew our commitment in support of the liberation movements. We have to safeguard against South Africa's mischiev-

ous duplicity to create a puppet regime in Namibia. We must maintain our pressure on South Africa against the inequities suffered by the non-White races.

In West Asia, there are some hopeful signs of a conference being held this year which would establish a Just and stable peace in this vital region. Similarly in recent weeks there have been beginning of a move towards peaceful resolution of the Cyprus problem and the demilitarization of the Indian Ocean. We welcome all these trends but we must persist in our principled positions.

As Non-aligned countries, we have welcomed the initiatives of powers to ease tensions and strengthen Detente in the hope that this could arrest the mad race for better and more arms. We have, indeed, responsibilities to judge the needs of national defence and security. But as a devotee of peace, I cannot but regret that the international community in their mutual suspicions have not yet succeeded in a more purposeful effort against the wasteful multiplication of mutually destructive overkill capabilities. Here again, it seems to me, Fear stalks the international landscape and inhibits enlightened initiatives. Non-alignment has always pleaded for a freeze in arms race and urged that a small part of the vast human and material resources, now engaged in arms production and trade must be diverted for constructive and developmental programme. Can we not have the courage nationally and collectively to give a lead so that this fear may be turned to at least some gains of trust to halt this harmful escalation. If ten per cent or even 5 per cent of the \$300 billion being presently spent annually on armament is thus diverted, it could make a substantial difference in the effort to translate into reality the prospects of a new and socially just international economic order.

For our part, as a small contribution for the larger global landscape, my Government is specially determined to make every effort that our relations with our immediate neighbours improve on the basis of dignity and mutual interest. I believe we have made hopeful beginnings. Our purpose is to see that at least this subcontinent overcomes old

suspicious and discovers that through co-operation and peaceful efforts, we make our neighbourhood stable against outside malevolence and can devote greater share of our limited resources towards respective constructive endeavours.

Mr. President, this group of Non-aligned countries marshalls the benefit of experience from the continents of the world. I would not Presume to suggest that I have any original recipes for the solution of world Problems. Based on our priorities and perceptions, I have placed before you some thoughts of mine. I am convinced that our national independence must come first; but then, it must go on to explore bilaterally and multilaterally all avenues of beneficial international cooperation. Economically, we must aim at national self-reliance but not in autarky or isolation. Freedom from Want is never enough until there is Freedom from Want for all our peoples. And if we can rise above our Fears, we may provide a noble lead to the great powers who have riches as well as strength much more than our own. It is only through fearlessness, faith and moral courage that we can move mountains and defeat heavy odds. We have learnt that we have a common interest in preserving mankind's finite heritage of the Earth, the Waters, the Air and the sources of Energy. We command today the instruments of science and knowledge as never before in history to make the elements open new vistas of progress before us. We only have to work together in nobility of purpose transcending our immediate or narrow concerns so that we may be worthy of our responsibilities and be the instrument for lasting and universal progress. We have pledged our sincere commitment and even our willingness to sacrifice and to join in this task for our own and common welfare for a stable peace in a co-operative world. May our path, howsoever difficult to traverse and howsoever long to cover be strewn with success !

It is with these words, Mr. President, that I am happy to inaugurate your deliberations and wish them a happy and purposeful outcome!

Date : Apr 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT

Foreign Minister's Address

The following is the statement by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, India's Minister of External Affairs, at the Plenary Session of the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Co-ordinating Bureau of Non-aligned Countries on April 7, 1977 at New Delhi:

Excellencies, Esteemed Colleagues and Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome the distinguished Foreign Ministers and other representatives of non-aligned countries who have come from far and near to participate in this Conference. We are happy to have you amongst us as our honoured guests and deeply appreciate your positive response to our invitation. May I assure you that the warmth of friendship and the traditional hospitality of the Indian people await you?

It is a privilege and pleasure for the new Government that within a fortnight of its assumption of office, it is hosting the first post-Colombo Summit Conference of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-aligned countries at the level of Foreign Ministers.

My mind goes back to another historic Conference which India had the honour of hosting in New Delhi in April 1947 on the eve of India's Independence. I refer to the First Asian Relations Conference which was

a gathering of countries of Asia which had won their freedom or were on the verge of it. The message given to that Conference by Mahatma Gandhi is equally valid today. He observed and I quote --

"Of Course, I believe in one world. How can I possibly do otherwise? You and I are the inheritors of the message of love that these great and unconquerable teachers have left for us. You call re-deliver that message now in this age of democracy, in the age of an awakening of the poorest of the poor".

You are here at a very eventful time in the history of our nation when the voice of the people in a free and open society has effectively and decisively re-asserted itself. What has happened in India has conclusively demonstrated that the democratic process has taken root in our country and the people of India have shown active and mature interest in their own governance.

This is a welcome opportunity for us to reiterate India's continuing adherence to the policy of non-alignment which has been the corner-stone of our foreign policy since independence. For India, as indeed for all the other non-aligned countries, the policy of non-alignment flows from our struggle for freedom from colonial rule. It is a policy based on national consensus and reflects the deep desire of our people to preserve complete independence based on our national interests and independent judgment on international issues on their merits without being influenced one way or the other by outside forces.

In the realm of foreign policy we stand for friendship with all our neighbours and other nations of the world on the basis of equality and reciprocity and will follow a path of genuine non-alignment. We propose to give special attention to the strengthening of ties and economic and technical cooperation with non-aligned and other developing countries.

Today, after three decades and five Summit Conferences, the seeds of non-align-

ment have blossomed into a well-defined movement, nurtured carefully and collectively by the increasingly large number of countries who on becoming independent have adopted its aims and ideals. Non-alignment is not conceived in narrow terms to serve the interests of a small group or bloc of nations. If nonalignment stands vindicated in a fast-changing world, it is because it has always been visualised as benefiting all nations and all people in the search for global peace, progress and co-operation.

In the tremendous diversity of its membership there is a discernible fundamental unity of ideals and principles. Whatever be the challenges - and there are many - we must ensure that we maintain our solidarity and cohesion for the sake of preserving and consolidating our independence and for

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ushering in a just and equitable world order. We need to ensure that Non-alignment remains genuine and steers clear of rival power blocs, multilateral military alliances and ideological groupings.

We are meeting here to exchange views on the developments in the international situation since the historic Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of Non-aligned countries held in Colombo in August 1976 and to review the implementation of decisions taken on that occasion in the political and economic spheres. The primary accent in our deliberations ought to be on implementation in a concrete and coordinated manner, as that alone would ensure the effectiveness of our Movement and give it operative dimensions.

The subjects we are going to examine and analyse at this Conference fall broadly under four headings: (1) Decolonisation, (2) Detente, (3) Disarmament, and (4) Development.

The policy of non-alignment was born in the assertion of independence by newly-emergent nations as sovereign entities. Non-alignment became the logical policy to pursue as decolonisation acquired momentum, old colonial empires disappeared and new nation-

states came on the world stage. Indeed, the policy of non-alignment played a significant role in hastening the process of liberation from colonial bondage. The process of decolonisation has since made considerable headway though it is regrettable that vestiges of colonialism, racism and racial discrimination continue to linger on.

The White minority regimes have, in arrogant defiance of world opinion, thwarted all efforts at peaceful solutions, whether in South Africa, Zimbabwe or Namibia.

The inhuman and degrading policy of apartheid continues to be followed by the Government of South Africa as a means of perpetuating its rule. The granting of so-called independence to Transkei by the South African Government and the creation of similar Bantustans elsewhere is merely an extension of the policy of apartheid and is intended to create satellite black areas without any real independence. India's commitment to the struggle against racism, racial discrimination and apartheid dates, back to 1893 when Mahatma Gandhi first landed in South Africa to join forces with the people there. We have never forgotten the bonds of shared experiences and common sufferings that unite our peoples. We recall with pride and satisfaction that in 1946 at the first Session of the U.N. General Assembly it was India which raised the issue of apartheid and racial discrimination in South Africa.

Introduction of majority rule in Zimbabwe is over due. It is a matter of deep concern that the Geneva Conference on Zimbabwe failed due to the intransigence of the illegal Ian Smith regime. The situation there is explosive and if a peaceful solution is not found quickly, the people may be left with no other option but to resort to armed struggle. We express our solidarity and support for the liberation movements who have been building up the momentum of their struggle despite heavy odds and difficulties.

In Namibia, South Africa's continued presence is illegal and urgent measures need to be taken to secure the full and effective implementation of the U.N. Resolutions that

call for the independence of Namibia. India has consistently maintained that the United Nations cannot afford to fail in Namibia because the U.N. has a collective legal responsibility for its independence.

It is a matter of satisfaction that the Non-aligned Solidarity Fund for the liberation of Southern Africa set up at Colombo has already become operational. We have no doubt whatsoever that the struggle for the liberation in all parts of Southern Africa will meet with ultimate success. Frontline states have also borne the brunt of repressive measure,; and aggressive action and we express our complete solidarity with them.

The search for peace in the Middle East continues to be as elusive as ever. The situation remains a source of great anxiety. Israel must vacate occupied Arab territories. The inalienable rights of the Palestinian people should be recognised. It is our hope that ways and means will soon be found to implement the relevant Security Council Resolutions and that there will be an early resumption of Geneva Conference with the participation among others of the P.L.O.

While we welcome relaxation of tensions, it is disappointing to see that the

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process of detente is yet to be consolidated and spread to all parts of the world. Further, detente between the great powers would have little meaning for us if our political and economic sovereignty continues to be violated through external pressures and interference in our internal affairs.

The absence of significant progress in the field of disarmament has aroused considerable concern particularly among newly emergent nations. Arms race continues unabated involving a staggering expenditure. Even if a fraction of this could be diverted for development it could Alter the situation substantially to the advantage of the developing world. We are glad to recall that the 31st Session of the U.N. General Assembly endorsed the call of the Colombo Summit for a special session of the U.N. General Assembly exclusively devoted to disarmament

matters. We must now carefully plan, coordinate and harmonise our position in the preparatory work for this Session to ensure that it would be fruitful and a significant breakthrough would be achieved in the field of general and complete disarmament including, in particular, nuclear disarmament.

India, together with all other littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, continues to be concerned at the lack of progress so far in the implementation of the U.N. Declaration on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. Without the elimination of great power rivalry and existing foreign military bases as in Diego Garcia no meaningful advance in this direction would be possible. In this context, therefore, we have noted with interest recent statements by great powers and we look forward to their constructive cooperation in the establishment of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

Non-aligned countries have all along stood for the increasing universality of the membership of the United Nations. I am sure I voice the feeling of this distinguished assembly when I express the ardent hope that our fellow non-aligned country, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, which has so far been denied the membership of the world body, would soon be able to take its rightful place. It is heartening to note that in response to a decision taken by the Colombo Summit, a Non-aligned Solidarity Fund for the reconstruction of the Indo-China States has got off to a promising start at the Pledging Conferences held recently at the U.N. Headquarters.

The cause of preserving and consolidating world peace is inextricably linked to the cause of development. Development must be based on the twin pillars of global interdependence and the growth of collective self-reliance among non-aligned and other developing countries. This Bureau meeting provides a valuable opportunity to the non-aligned countries to further coordinate and harmonise their positions in both these directions.

Though we are now approaching the end

of the Second Development Decade, the targets accepted by the international community of particular relevance to the development of developing countries remain largely unfulfilled. The decisions taken at the 6th and 7th Special General Assembly Sessions of the U.N. still, by and large, remain on paper. Consequently, the gap between the developed and developing, the affluent and the poor countries has widened. Corrective measures are urgently called for to redress this imbalance in the coming decade. To this end my delegation proposes that a group of experts from non-aligned countries be set up to elaborate a blueprint for the Third Development Decade, which would identify measures to restructure the international economy and promote the establishment of the New International Economic Order.

The trend in the current dialogue between developed and developing countries is causing serious concern. We are deeply disappointed that the negotiations on the UNCTAD Common Fund have so far proved inconclusive. The Bureau must express its expectations in clear and unequivocal terms that, at the forthcoming session of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation in Paris all participating countries, both developed and developing, make a determined effort to ensure its success. It has been our consistent belief that it is only the spirit of cooperation and not confrontation that can lead to lasting solutions.

The concept of collective self-reliance constitutes the basis of the Action Programme for Economic Cooperation adopted at Colombo last August. This concept is cen-

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tral to our interests and to the needs of development.

Of considerable interest to my country is the recommendation of the Colombo Action Programme on the initiation of a process of consultations among developing producer and consumer countries to ensure mutually satisfactory supply and purchase terms and conditions among developing countries. These consultations should com-

mence at an early date. India is prepared to undertake a study on the complementarities which exist among developing countries in terms of resource endowment and industrial and technological capacity.

In order to implement the important recommendations made by the Colombo Summit in the field of financial and monetary cooperation, we would like to propose a meeting of representatives of the Ministries of Finance and Central Banks of non-aligned countries, in the near future, to initiate a systematic exchange of information on capital movements and investment opportunities in developing countries, expansion of mutual banking relations and developments in the fields of banking and banking legislation.

We continue to place a strong emphasis on the development of the technological capacities of developing countries and the exchange of technical know-how among non-aligned and other developing countries. The establishment of a Centre for Science and Technology in Lima, Peru, at the initiative of non-aligned countries is a step in the right direction. We are willing to contribute to the furtherance of cooperation in the field by hosting a meeting of an inter-governmental working group on the applications of appropriate technology for employment, vocational training and income distribution.

The collective action of non-aligned countries in various international fora has become an important catalytic factor in finding solutions to the unresolved issues of our time. In this context the non-aligned countries should now take the initiative to coordinate the strategy of developing countries in the preparatory work for the two important U.N. Conferences due to be held in the immediate future. I refer to the U.N. Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing countries in 1978 and the U.N. Conference on Science and Technology for Development in 1979.

I have shared with you some thoughts on what can be described as the focal points of non-aligned activity in the coming years

- the new world order we are working for and the democratization of international relations which we are seeking, whether in the political, social, economic or information fields. We became free in a world where the old imperial powers and others in continents had, in their own time, achieved the take-off and breakthrough to self-sustaining technological and economic growth. In these decades, the newly-emergent world has not been enabled to catch up. On the contrary, the chasm has grown. Thus we face a paradox that while on the political plane, we have now a vast community of independent and equal nations, there is no such equality in capabilities and progress when judged from economic and technological criteria. These disparities are unjust and have been the source of tensions and conflicts. Progress there has been but much remains to be done.

The task of the non-aligned is cooperation among like-minded nations in a spirit of friendship and equality. The community of the nonaligned has grown. Our combined voice has often acted as the conscience of the world community has helped in drawing attention to these problems and in correcting the imbalance. The challenges which the non-aligned faces now are, in a sense, a penalty of its success. Our numbers have grown and so has the diversity of our membership. Many of us lack full command of science and technology or of resources for growth and development. Few of us have the financial resources. While safeguarding our respective national interests and purposes, if we could pull together our wisdom, our technology, our human, material and financial resources, this mighty movement of the non-aligned could truly be a factor in the realisation of our cherished objectives. The challenge now for the non-aligned is the willingness to adjust, share, if necessary, sacrifice in order that our collective aspirations and collective voice can be backed by collective effort leading to collective self-reliance. The major challenge is to rise above the immediate national or group con-

of solidarity. Let us work together to translate our dreams into reality. Let us face the problems that confront us in a spirit of confidence, with determination and courage, for we cannot afford to falter or waver from the straight and narrow path that we have chosen.

INDIA USA SRI LANKA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC NAMIBIA SOUTH AFRICA ZIMBABWE
SWITZERLAND ISRAEL VIETNAM CHINA FRANCE PERU

Date : Apr 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Shri Vajpayee's Statement on the Reported Decision of U.S. Government to Sell Arms to Pakistan

The Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, made the following statement in the Rajya Sabha on April 4, 1977 in response to the Calling Attention Notice on the reported decision of the U.S. Government to sell arms to Pakistan:

The Government of India have seen press reports based on Washington Post of USA of March 29, 1977, that the U.S. President has approved the sale of over 2 billion dollars worth of arms to a number of countries including Pakistan. Until the proposal is formally submitted for approval to the U.S. Congress, the precise list of materials to be available for sale to different countries will not be known, We understand, however, that the sales pertain to an ongoing programme going back several years for refurbishing of equipment previously supplied by the U.S. to Pakistan.

As the House is aware, India has normalised its relations with Pakistan and seeks to explore the possibilities of increasing beneficial cooperation between the countries of this region in order to make our sub-

continent free from tensions and a region of stability. This, we believe, is in the wider interests of peace in Asia and should be welcomed both by positive encouragement and restraint by the powers who have expressed their satisfaction at these trends.

We have often in the past and more recently brought to the notice of the U.S. Government our concern at the dangers of arms sales which could upset this process. The Government of India have noted with satisfaction reports of President Carter advocating restraint in the transfer and sale of arms to developing countries. As recently as on March 17, addressing the Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly, President Carter said, "There must be a wider effort to reduce the flow of weapons to all the troubled spots of the globe. Accordingly, we will try to reach broader agreements among producer and the consumer nations to limit the export of conventional arms, and we will take initiatives of our own, since the United States has become one of the major arms suppliers of the world". It is, therefore, our hope that arms sale policies by the USA would not reverse the trend towards normalisation, or contribute to revival of tensions, stimulating an arms race and imposing greater economic burdens on the people of the Sub-continent.

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Date : Apr 01, 1977

Volume No

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PORTUGAL

Indo-Portuguese Cooperation Agreement

The following is the text of a Press Note

issued in New Delhi on April 15, 1977 on the Indo-Portuguese Cooperation Agreement:

LISBON: The Indo-Portuguese agreement on trade and economic, industrial and technical cooperation which was initialled in New Delhi in December last, was formally signed. The agreement envisages harmonious and substantial increase in trade between the two countries and expansion of cooperation in various other fields. The agreement was signed by Dr. Antonio Celeste, Secretary of State for Foreign Trade and Indian Ambassador. The Secretary of State for Emigration in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr. Joao Lima was also present on the signing ceremony.

PORTUGAL INDIA USA PERU

Date : Apr 01, 1977

Volume No

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TANZANIA

Prime Minister's Speech at Banquet in Honour of Tanzanian Vice-President

The following is the text of the prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai's speech at the banquet held in New Delhi on April 16, 1977 in honour of the First Vice-president Tanzania, Mr. Aboud Jumbe:

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I am happy indeed to welcome you, Mr. First Vice-President, and your distinguished colleagues to our country. The relations between Tanzania and India have been so warm and cordial that a visit by a leader of your standing from that country would always be one of significance and mutual value. Even otherwise between this sub-continent and the countries in the

African continent, there has been a long history of exchange of visits, trade and commerce, and cultural relations. Perhaps, more significant is the fact that the first major relationship between Africa and India, both still not independent, was created by Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our Nation who evolved the concept and practice of satyagraha in Africa. Some of us were fortunate enough to see him when he launched satyagraha, time and again in India, and old enough to understand his deep concern not for peripheral problems of ephemeral elements but for deep vital issues facing us then and today, namely his belief in the indivisibility of freedom, his love and solidarity with our brethren in Africa and elsewhere and his support to the cause of the down-trodden and oppressed everywhere.

You are visiting our country at a time of great changes that have recently taken place. There has been a historic general election which has resulted in a change of government. We are indeed happy that the very first senior statesman coming on a State visit to our country after the parliamentary elections should be such a distinguished representative from the great African Continent. I should also like to assure you, Excellency, that there is complete unanimity among the people of India about our friendship towards the government and people of your country and our feelings of appreciation of the role of your country is playing in enlarging the boundaries of liberty in a Continent which was at one time labelled as a Dark Continent but is now

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wielding the torch of liberty for its oppressed brothers.

You are no stranger to our country, Your Excellency. You have visited us before and many of our senior leaders of all parties and persuasions have been to your country, partaken of your hospitality, and seen something at first hand of the success of your unique experiment in national development. Your great leader, Julius Nyerere, is known to us as a pioneer in evolving novel techniques in economic and social reconstruction

in Africa without sacrificing the basic simplicity, loyalty and beauty of tribal life. It is only one year ago that we had the privilege of receiving President Julius Nyerere in our country and conferring upon him the prestigious award for international understanding which we have in our country for distinguished foreigners. The creation of a single unified party composed of the T.A.N.U. of the old Tanganyika, and the Afro-Shirazi Party of Zanzibar, is a triumph of reason, patience and maturity over the normal differences which divide developing societies everywhere. We wish you all success in your endeavour.

India and Tanzania have by now an impressive record of bilateral cooperation. We have sincerely tried to share our developmental experience. I am sure, Excellency, that you will agree with me in our conviction that in the long and arduous road ahead for the poorer countries of the world there is no alternative to individual and collective self-reliance through more and more significant programmes of cooperation between each other. The developed countries will have to be approached in a friendly way since the adjustments or redressals we seek from them will affect their affluence immediately. This underlines both the complexity of the task ahead and the need for cooperation amongst the non-aligned. It is my sincere belief that the developing countries can help each other through appropriate technology much better and more than the sophisticated societies can help either of us through their labour saving and capital intensive methods.

By economic self-reliance, we in India do not mean prosperity or affluence in the Western sense. We have the tradition of a simple and elegant life-style rejecting the unnecessary and concentrating upon the essential. We would be untrue to ourselves and to the world if we forget that great heritage. We are looking forward in our own country, not to a huge consumer oriented society caught in a vicious spiral of production and consumption leaving millions of individuals alienated from each other and from nature, but to an integrated and harmonious group of reasonably contented people

at home with fellow human beings and with nature. This is also, as we understand it, the essence of the Tanzanian experiment in national reconstruction.

Your Excellency, we in India have always had a special sensitivity to the tragedy of Africa, Africa's long dark night of colonialism, oppression and racial discrimination. This is why we have always placed the struggle of the African people as one of the foremost in the international scene. The last 20 years have seen the liberation of most of Africa. Southern Africa, however, continues to be the focus of danger and potential disaster not only to Africa but to the whole of humanity. Men who do not see the writing on the wall and continue to identify their self-interest with the perpetual exploitation of their fellow men are still not willing to march with the times and pursue the path of enlightenment. In the struggle for liberation in Zimbabwe and Namibia, and against racial discrimination and apartheid in South Africa, Tanzania plays a crucial role. I would like to take this opportunity to assure you, Your Excellency, that the Government in India attaches very great importance and urgency to this problem. We are with you in this tremendous human struggle. We hope that by negotiation and diplomacy and with the assistance of the world community, the problem will be solved before long in a peaceful manner. I would also assure Your Excellency that we are and will be with you in securing a happy end to this tragic story.

There are many global problems in which both our countries are interested. I would not like to dwell upon them very much because this is an area where there is very little difference of opinion between New Delhi and Dar-es-Salaam. Moreover, both our delegations took an active part in the recent Non-aligned Bureau Meeting in New Delhi in which we were able to take stock of the progress registered in the economic and political programmes of the Non-aligned movement. I would only like to repeat here

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that we continue to see in the non-aligned movement a particular relevance to the

problems of poverty and injustice for the developing countries. We do not feel that there is any adequate institutional alternative to the non-aligned movement. We hope that the joint efforts of the members of the non-aligned movement will lead to a more equitable economic order in the immediate future and a relationship between the countries of the world based on brotherhood and fairplay and justice.

Before I conclude, I would like to make a special reference to the beautiful island of Zanzibar which is Your Excellency's homeland. The relationship between India and East Africa throughout the centuries is a matter of common knowledge. In the evolution of this relationship the people of Zanzibar have played a dominant role. During colonial times, there was a new economic relationship forged by the clove industry. We are happy to know that the departure of our colonial powers has not in any way ended our older ties. It has actually led to new economic, industrial and technological links which are useful to both our countries. We hope that these will continue to flourish and that we will be able to identify new areas where we could help each other.

Once again, Mr. First Vice-President, I would like to express our profound feelings of pleasure at having you and your distinguished colleagues with us today. I would like you to feel at home in our country and exchange in frankness and confidence ideas on our common problems and bilateral relations as well as the global issues which affect us closely.

Excellencies, may I request you to drink a toast to the health of the President of Tanzania, Dr. Julius Nyerere; of our distinguished guest, the First Vice-President Mr. Aboud Jumbe, and his distinguished colleagues; and to the evergrowing friendship between the peoples of Tanzania and India.

TANZANIA INDIA USA NAMIBIA ZIMBABWE

Date : Apr 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

TANZANIA

H.E. Mr. Jumbe's Reply

Replying the Tanzanian First Vice-President delivered the following speech:

Mr. Prime Minister, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

My delegation and I are very grateful for the kind invitation to visit India extended to us by His Excellency Acting President during his last Tanzania tour. For some unavoidable reasons it has not been possible for us to come till now, which makes this my second official visit to this great country. It is four years since my last visit. I have happy memories of a very pleasant and fruitful stay and I look forward to renewing my acquaintance with the people of India and seeing more of their national efforts. A country so vast and varied as yours can never fail to intrigue the visitor with novelty and surprise. And coming at his particular point in India's development era, our visit acquires much added interest. It is indeed a great privilege for my delegation and myself to be here at this exciting moment in India's history. The events of the past three weeks to be precise, the General Elections the discipline that the electorate displayed, and the quiet manner in which the country settled down to the change it has itself created speak volumes for the Indian people and the value you attach to democratic institutions in this country.

I am happy to be among the earliest State visitors to India since the new Government assumed power. This gives my delegation and I the rare opportunity to appraise the extent and significance of the change that

has recently taken place for we appreciate, the magnitude of India's challenge. In a way your country, Mr. Prime Minister, could be viewed as a world microcosm, encompassing in its vast territory staggering divergencies of culture, language, religion and ideology that characterize the larger world. Such a situation is not by any standard easy to handle, and enemies of India, like those of Africa are only too prone to exploit it against the national interests, should it be to their

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advantage to do so. But it is not for me to preach to an older and more experienced people whose early struggle and achievement has blazed the trail for many of us. I merely wish to express the confidence that this great country with already so much to her credit will undoubtedly rise above its challenges to consolidate and strengthen economy and accelerate progress amid all her rich diversity so that India's abundant material and spiritual resources play a full role and makes a full contribution to the struggle against poverty, ignorance, disease, exploitation and injustice so that real freedom, justice, peace, harmony and progress is established in this troubled world.

The Government has risen to power in the wake of the most hard-fought election since India's independence. That it has succeeded in settling down to business so soon after taking over the country's leadership and been able to afford us this unique opportunity to be here to witness what is going on is a measure of your confidence in your country and our friendship. Permit me therefore on behalf of the Government and people of Tanzania to congratulate the Government and people of India on the successful conclusion of a great campaign and to express on behalf of Tanzania and all my colleagues present our good wishes for even greater successes in the days to come.

Mr. Prime Minister, the last few years have seen the progressive development of our already friendly relations, which have been further consolidated through personal contacts at various levels. The exchange of visits between our respective Heads of State,

our Vice-Presidents, our Prime Ministers and others, which have been a notable feature of recent years has contributed significantly to greater understanding and co-operation between our peoples. It is our hope that the present goodwill mission will continue to vitalize this worthy tradition.

Tanzania's friendship with India stems largely from a common historical background. We both suffered the humiliation and frustration of British colonialism. Our roads to freedom are very nearly parallel, and beneath local variations, to a large extent we are left with and have to face the same problems. It is out of this stock of shared experience and aspirations that has emerged our, great identity of views which is reflected in almost all major world issues. Thus on the international forums, India and Tanzania have on most occasions found themselves on the same ground. Our shared philosophy on non-alignment and our common membership of the Commonwealth have over the years given us the opportunity to know each other and work very closely together for the good of our people and of a sizeable part of the humanity. The same spirit of understanding and mutual trust has animated our work at the United Nations and other world forums. In short together we have been humble partners in the service of man. May I take this opportunity to assure the Government and people of India that Tanzania tremendously values this identity of views and cooperation with India which we believe is a positive contribution to the Third World and the non-aligned movement. On our part we promise to do all we can to enhance it.

We are also grateful for India's co-operation on the bilateral level. Indian assistance to Tanzania in recent years includes the supply of personnel, the training of Our People, provision of machinery and equipment for the development of Small and Medium scale industries in Tanzania, the development of natural gas resources and the credit facilities for some very important projects in Tanzania. I wish to state how much we value this gesture of good-will and I take this opportunity to express; our sincerest thank to you,

to the Government and people of India. It is our hope that this cooperation will be consolidated and expanded to our mutual advantage.

Allow me in conclusion to make a few observations on a very important issue, namely freedom and peace in Africa. It is an axiom that peace and freedom are indivisible. Africa at this late hour is still fighting the double curse of colonialism and racism. Our brothers and sisters in Southern Africa are struggling for their independence, freedom, and human dignity against one of the most oppressive regimes. Having failed to secure by peaceful means the independence of the people of Southern Africa, the OAU had no choice but to take up arms. Obviously that is the only way left us to achieve our objectives of freedom, unity and peace. The racists in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa refuse to see reason. They not only persist in their designs but have

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stepped up their repressive acts through not only violence and murder in the countries under their oppression, but also in incursions and even invasions into neighbouring countries. In the circumstances the nationalists in that part of Africa have had no choice except with the full backing of the OAU, to mount an armed struggle.

At this juncture. I wish to express our appreciation of the solidarity and assistance given by India in the cause of African liberation. We are thankful for the assistance, material and other wise, that this country has given to Africa over a long period of time which has certainly contributed to the success of liberation in Africa. It is our hope that India will continue to render whatever assistance she can to the OAU with the other peace-loving people of the world, so that in a joint endeavour we rid Africa and the world of all the evils of colonial oppression in their various manifestations. In the dark torrent of injustice and shame with which such systems smear humanity and pervert the world, man's spirit must rise to illuminate the path that will take mankind to its true destiny. Let us work and march to-

gether to freedom and justice, equality and respect for human dignity to development and prosperity that will bring everlasting peace and happiness to all.

I ask you ladies and gentlemen to take up your glasses and drink a toast with me to the health of Acting President and Mrs. Jatti; to the Prime Minister, Mr. Desai; to the Government and People of India; and to ever growing friendship and cooperation between India and Tanzania.

TANZANIA INDIA USA NAMIBIA ZIMBABWE SOUTH AFRICA

Date : Apr 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

TANZANIA

Indo-Tanzania Joint Communique

Following is the text of Indo-Tanzania joint communique issued in New Delhi on April 24, 1977 at the conclusion of the official visit of H.E. Mr. Aboud Jumbe, First Vice-President of the United Republic of Tanzania:

At the invitation of His Excellency Shri Morarji Desai, the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, His Excellency Mr. Aboud Jumbe, First Vice-President of the United Republic of Tanzania, leading an official delegation, paid a friendly visit to the Republic of India from 16th to 24th April, 1977. The delegation was received with great warmth and cordiality by the Government and the people of India.

During his stay in Delhi, the First Vice-President of the Republic of Tanzania called on the Acting President, Shri B. D. Jatti and held official talks with the Prime Minister of

India, Shri Morarji Desai. He also received the Minister of External Affairs, Shri A. B. Vajpayee and Senior Official, of the Government of India.

During his stay in India, His Excellency Mr. Aboud Jumbe and the delegation visited Kashmir, Varanasi, Khajuraho, Poona and Bombay where they saw places of industrial, historical and cultural interests.

The official talks between the First Vice-President of the Republic of Tanzania and the Prime Minister of India took place in an atmosphere of understanding and cordiality reflecting the close friendly relations existing between the two countries. The discussions included a review of developments of recent international events and bilateral relations between India and Tanzania. These discussions confirmed the identity of views between the leaders of the two countries.

In these talks the First Vice-President of Tanzania was assisted by the following:

Mr. R. M. Kawawa, Minister of Defence and National Service; Mr. N. A. Mzee, Minister of State First Vice President's Office; Mr. M. A. Fom, Joint Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. N. Hamdan, Muhidin, Minister of Foreign Trade, Zanzibar; Mr. N. A. S. Ahmed, Minister of Planning & Development, Zanzibar; Mr. H. K. Mulinde, Minister of First Vice President's Office; Col. Ramadhan Haji, Army Representative; Prof. J. K. Rweyemamu, Personal Assistant to the President in Economic Affairs; and Mr. A. D. Hassan, High Commissioner of Tanzania in India,

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The Prime Minister of India was assisted by the following:

Shri A. B. Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs; Shri M. A. Vellodi, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs; Shri V. K. Ahuja, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs; Shri A. K. Damodaran, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs; and Shri R. K. Anand, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

The two sides emphasised the increasing importance and validity of the Non-aligned Movement and expressed satisfaction at the successful outcome of the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the non-aligned countries held in Delhi from 7th to 11th April, 1977.

The two leaders reviewed the developments in Southern Africa and expressed their concern at further deterioration of the situation in the area, arising from the continued intransigence and repressive policies of the racist white minority regimes in their determination to maintain the ruthless system of colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination. The two leaders also expressed grave concern at the increasingly aggressive and provocative actions of the white minority regimes against the neighbouring independent African States. In this regard the two leaders condemned the policies and actions of the racist minority regimes of South Africa and Rhodesia which constitute a threat to international peace and security. The two leaders expressed full support for and solidarity with the patriotic forces of Zimbabwe in their legitimate struggle, including armed struggle to achieve majority rules.

The two sides also expressed full support for and solidarity with the people of Namibia in their struggle for self-determination and independence and expressed their strong condemnation of the action taken by the racist regime of South Africa in consolidating its illegal occupation by extending its policy of Bantustan to Namibia.

The two sides reaffirmed their support to the declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace free from foreign military bases and great power rivalry and called upon the great powers and the major maritime users fully to co-operate with the Littoral and Hinterland States in achieving the objective of the establishment of Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

On West Asia the two sides noted with regret that a solution to the basic issues had

not yet been found and stressed the need for the early implementation of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

The Prime Minister of India outlined recent developments in India particularly during the last two months which led to the establishment of a new Government through the freely expressed judgement of the people of India. He referred in particular the fact that the changeover was effected through democratic process with discipline, peace and restraint.

The Prime Minister of India also referred to the initiatives taken for further normalisation of relations among the countries of the subcontinent, reflecting India's deep desire to create a climate of understanding and co-operation among the countries of the subcontinent. The First Vice-President of Tanzania appreciated the initiatives taken by the Government of India for the furtherance of the establishment of permanent peace and economic co-operation among all the countries of the subcontinent.

The two leaders reviewed the development of cultural, trade, economic, industrial and technological relations between their two countries. They noted with satisfaction the progress made in promoting closer co-operation between the two countries and emphasised the need for further steps to enlarge such co-operation for the success of mutually beneficial and dignified relations between the two countries.

The First Vice-President of the United Republic of Tanzania expressed his appreciation of the cordial and warm welcome extended to him and to the members of his delegation by the Government and the people of India. The First Vice-President of the United Republic of Tanzania extended an invitation to the Prime Minister of India to visit Tanzania. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

Volume No

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THAILAND

Indo-Thai Cultural Agreement

The following is the text of a Press Note issued in New Delhi on April 29, 1977, on the Indo-Thai Cultural agreement:

Thailand today became the 50th nation to sign a cultural agreement with India.

The agreement was signed by Shri K. N. Channa, Secretary, Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, and Department of Culture on behalf of the Government of India, and H.E. Dr. Suchati Chuthasmit, Ambassador of Thailand in India, on behalf of his Government. Reaffirming the friendly ties between the two countries they expressed the hope that the cultural agreement will help bring the peoples of the two countries still closer together.

The agreement provides for the setting up of a Joint Committee consisting of representatives of the two Governments which will meet at least once in two years for a periodic review of the working of the agreement. It will also formulate programmes for cultural, scientific and educational exchanges.

The agreement envisages cooperation in the fields of art, culture, education including science and technology, sports, public health and mass media. This is proposed to be achieved by encouraging and facilitating reciprocal visits of delegations, experts, performing troupes and sports teams besides exchange of films and radio and television programmes. The two sides will also facilitate establishment of cultural institutes or

friendship associations devoted to cultural and educational pursuits in each other's country.

THAILAND INDIA

Date : Apr 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Shri Vajpayee's Speech at Lunch in Honour of H.E. Gromyko

The following is the text of speech made by the Minister of External Affairs of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, at the lunch held in honour of His Excellency Mr. A. A. Gromyko, Member of the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., in New Delhi on April 26, 1977:

Your Excellency Mr. Gromyko, Madame Gromyko and Friends:

On behalf of the people of India and their Government, and on my own behalf, I welcome you Mr. Minister, Madame Gromyko and the members of your delegation to India, this ancient land that has just gone through a new experience.

Your Excellency, you are an offspring of a mighty revolution and I am sure you will find the atmosphere in India today familiar much as you see around you some unfamiliar faces during this visit. The people of India who have often been accused of fatalism and indifference, have quietly brought about a peaceful revolution that is unique in the history of the world. Our people have given

and a responsibility -- to bring a new social order based on democratic freedom and economic equality. It is a time-bound programme of action and I say with good deal of pride that the journey has already begun.

These historic changes of our times in the Soviet Union and India were both responses to the urges and aspirations of our respective peoples. The means were different but the goals were the same. I do however, take this opportunity to reiterate that the bonds of friendship between our two countries are strong enough to survive the demands of divergent systems, the fate of an individual or the fortunes of a political party.

In the recent elections in India there were many issues which were hotly debated but foreign policy was not one of them. The essential principles and the basic direction of our foreign policy are non-controversial and continue to enjoy the support of our people. We have reaffirmed our intention to promote friendship and understanding with all nations.

The friendship between our two countries has been reflected in the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation of 1971. This friendship has stood the test of time. In the changing kaleidoscope of the international situation over the years, this friendship has remained a constant factor for peace and stability in Asia and the world. The people of both our countries cherish peace. We both realise that lasting peace will remain elusive, or at best transitory, without peaceful co-existence, which means recognition of the right of other countries to have the political and socioeconomic system of their own choice and making.

The single greatest quality of Mahatma Gandhi, Father of our nation, was his utter and total fearlessness. Gandhiji taught us to discard fear, for only then could we stand tip against tyranny and oppression. Our natural experience during the struggle for independence and our policy of non-alignment are manifestations of our freedom from fear. In the days of the cold war, it was fear which made countries huddle together under

the shelter of military alliances. We choose a different path, of non-alignment with military pacts, since we believed that the best security could be sought in one's own stability and strength. These principles have now been accepted by 87 countries spanning all the continents of the globe. Our own experience confirms the validity of non-alignment not only for peace but also for a better and happier life for the people of the world.

Your Excellency, mankind today is beset with problems of its own making. Our world is rich in resources, but unfortunately our wisdom does not match our wealth. The more the frontiers of our knowledge expand, the more we are convinced that we have to protect this little planet of ours on which we live. Astronomical sums of money are being spent on improving the means of destruction while the staggering problems of poverty remain unresolved. In spite of the plethora of resolutions and declarations of intent, the goal of complete and total disarmament remains a dream. Not only is there no reduction in the existing stockpiles, but more fearful weapons of mass destruction are being continually added to these stockpiles. Are we to remain silent witnesses of a vanishing dream? It is not enough to have a world where war is just kept in check by the balance of nuclear terror. The need is not to balance terror, the need is to banish it. We in our country have voluntarily and unilaterally pledged that we will use nuclear technology only for peaceful purposes. and we will support every effort to eliminate all the means of destruction from the face of the earth.

An essential prerequisite for the consolidation of political independence is economic self-reliance. At the same time, we believe in inter-dependence. In the continent of Europe, there has been a significant shift in favour of detente and cooperation. We are aware that relaxation of tension in one region may have a salutary effect on situations elsewhere. It is likewise true that if there is continuing tension and conflict in some areas, it is likely to have a baneful influence on others. An illustrious son of India, Swami Vivekanand, gave expression

to this sentiment at the turn of the century:

"Problems that twenty years ago were matters of a single nation, cannot be solved nowadays in a national limit any longer. These problems get gigantic proportions, impressive forms and could be solved only if considered in the wider

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conception of international politics, international laws, international associations and international organisations This is the slogan of our time. This is the manifestation of solidarity."

Detente, therefore, in order to be stable, should not be allowed to remain confined to one continent. Efforts should be made to extend it to those regions which are still tormented by conflict.

Our own effort has been to build more and more bridges of understanding with all countries, particularly with our neighbours. We have constantly tried to normalise and improve relations as well as expand cooperation with our neighbouring countries. We have such colossal common problems of poverty and under-development that it is only through a mutual sharing of experience, skills and ideas that we can hope to solve them. An attitude of confrontation would weaken all of us. We are, therefore, determined to move deliberately and firmly towards greater mutual understanding and bilateralism with all our neighbours.

The colonial sun started setting with the independence of India, but it has unfortunately been a long and painful twilight since then. We hope to see before long the complete elimination of the remaining vestiges of colonialism and imperialism, racialism and apartheid, and exploitation of man by man.

Your Excellency, it is wisely said that the only way to have a friend is to be one. We wish to be friends with all countries. It is a matter of great satisfaction that your great country grasped our hand of friendship and we cherish our relations with you. We appreciate the help that the Soviet Union

has given to us to industrialise our country and to make us self-reliant. We are also grateful for their consistent and principled support in our difficult times. We remember all this and we shall continue to value our friendship with you. May I now request you all to join me in raising a glass to the health of His Excellency Mr. Gromyko and wish him and his wife a happy stay in India? May I also request you to drink to the health of His Excellency, General Secretary of the CPSU, Mr. Brezhnev; to the health of H.E. President Podgorny; to the health of H.E. Chairman Kosygin; to the health of all Soviet and Indian friends gathered at this table, and to the further development of Indo-Soviet friendship?

INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC MALI

Date : Apr 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Indo-U.S.S.R. Joint Communiqué

The following is the text of the Indo-U.S.S.R. joint communiqué issued in New Delhi on April 27, 1977 at the conclusion of the official visit by His Excellency Mr. A. A. Gromyko, Member of the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U. and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.:

At the invitation of the Government of India, Member of the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the CPSU and Minister of Foreign Affairs of USSR, Mr. A. A. Gromyko paid an official friendly visit to India from April 25 to 27, 1977.

During his stay in Delhi, Mr. A. A. Gromyko was received by the Acting Presi-

dent of India, Shri B. D. Jatti and held talks with the Prime Minister of India Shri Morarji Desai and the Minister of External Affairs of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. This was the first high-level exchange between the leaders of the new Government of India and the Soviet leadership.

During the talks, which were conducted in an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual understanding traditional between the representatives of India and Soviet Union, questions of Soviet-Indian bilateral relations were discussed and a broad exchange of views on major international problems of mutual interest took place.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the development of the time-tested relations of traditional friendship and co-operation, of mutual respect and confidence that have been established between the Soviet Union and India. The determination of both states was stressed to continue to follow the course towards the further

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strengthening of equal and mutually beneficial cooperation in the spirit of the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Co-operation of August 1971. The friendly Indo-Soviet relations reliably serve the interest of the peoples of the two countries and are an important factor of peace and stability in Asia and elsewhere. The two sides reviewed the present state of their bilateral cooperation in the economic, commercial, scientific and technical fields and noted with satisfaction that much cooperation is developing with the successful implementation of the various agreements concluded in the past between the two countries or their respective organisations. Noting the potential for continuing expansion of trade and economic cooperation between India and USSR, they expressed the determination to explore new areas of this cooperation on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit.

The two sides welcomed the development of Indo-Soviet ties in the spheres of culture, art, literature, education, health, tourism and sports and expressed their desire to

deepen and enrich them further.

As a result of the talks, the Foreign Ministers of USSR and India signed the following Soviet-Indian Agreements:

- (i) Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation;
- (ii) Agreement on cooperation in the establishment of Troposcatter Communication Link (for the establishment of reliable telegraph and telephone communication between the two countries);

The representatives of the Ministry of Commerce of India and the Ministry of Foreign Trade of USSR signed an Agreement on the mutual exchange of goods for the year 1977 on the basis of which the trade exchange between India and USSR will increase significantly.

These Agreements are expected to give a significant impetus to the further growth of Soviet-Indian cooperation in the economic, scientific and technical fields.

During the exchange of views on major world problems the two sides noted with satisfaction that the positions of the Soviet Union and India on many important questions are identical or close. They expressed their readiness to deepen their cooperation in the interests of peace, international detente disarmament and understanding between peoples.

The two sides noted the positive developments in Europe as a result of the All European Conference on Security and Cooperation in Helsinki and expressed the view that the process of detente should be extended to all the regions of the world. Both sides are convinced that the relaxation of tensions is vital for all the countries of the world, large and small, developed and developing. The two sides noted the particular importance of developing mutually beneficial cooperation and consolidating peace and stability in Asia and stressed that inter-state relations should rest on such principles as

renunciation of the use or threat of force, respect for sovereignty and inviolability of frontiers, non-interference in internal affairs, extensive development of cooperation in the economic and other fields on the basis of full equality and mutual benefit. Noting with satisfaction the outcome of discussions held so far, the two sides, agreed to continue their cooperation at the United Nations for the realisation of the proposal to conclude a world Treaty on the non-use of force in international relations.

The two sides reaffirm their determination to facilitate the achievement of general and complete disarmament, including nuclear disarmament, under effective international control. They believe that the special session of the U.N. General Assembly exclusively devoted to disarmament would consider in a comprehensive manner questions of general and complete disarmament and also express the hope about the early convening of a World Conference on Disarmament. The two sides agreed that early conclusion of a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear weapon tests, of a convention on the prohibition of destruction of chemical weapons and an agreement to prohibit the development and manufacturing of new types and systems of weapons of mass destruction would constitute concrete towards disarmament and stopping of the arms race. Both sides stressed that early progress towards total and complete disarmament was essential in order to release the

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much needed resources for accelerating the economic development of developing countries.

India and the Soviet Union are convinced of the increasingly significant contribution made by the non-aligned movement to the common struggle for the strengthening of universal peace and security of nations, against imperialism and aggression, for the elimination of the vestiges of colonialism, racial discrimination and the policy of apartheid, in defence of independence and freedom of all peoples and also for the establishment of the New International Economic

Order on the basis of respect for national sovereignty, equality and mutual benefit. They consider the non-aligned movement to be an important factor of international life which found confirmation at the Fifth Non-aligned Summit Conference in Colombo and the Conference of the Coordination Bureau of the Non-aligned Foreign Ministers held in New Delhi in April, 1977.

The Soviet Union and India recognise the necessity to further normalise the situation in the South Asian Sub-continent. The Soviet Union welcomes the efforts of India and other States of this region aimed at the establishment of the relations of good neighbourliness and at solving all disputes by peaceful means and negotiations without any outside interference. The two sides believe that further progress towards cooperation in the South Asian Sub-continent would be a useful contribution to strengthening of universal peace and to the development of mutual understanding between the peoples.

The two sides reaffirm their readiness to participate, together with all states concerned, on an equal basis and in conformity with the generally recognised rules of international law, in efforts leading to the early establishment of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. Both sides stand for the elimination of all existing foreign military bases from the Indian Ocean and the prohibition of new ones.

The two sides expressed serious concern at the grave situation in the Middle East. They came out resolutely in favour of a just settlement of the Middle East problem based on the total withdrawal of Israel from all the territories occupied in 1967, the legitimate right of the Arab people of Palestine, including the rights to establish their own state, and on ensuring the right of all states of the Middle East to independent existence and development. India and the USSR come out in favour of resuming for these purposes the work of the Geneva Peace Conference with the participation of all parties concerned, including representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. The Soviet Union and India stressed the necessity that there

should be no eruption of new conflict situations threatening the cause of peace anywhere in the world.

While reviewing the situation in Southern Africa, the two sides condemned the minority, racist regimes in Zimbabwe and the Republic of South Africa and the illegal occupation of Namibia by the Republic of South Africa and fully endorsed the demand for the immediate grant of majority rule in Zimbabwe and independence to Namibia. They expressed their resolve to continue to assist the peoples in these countries in their struggle for liberation from racist minority rule and exploitation.

The two sides reaffirm their resolve to work for the further strengthening of the United Nations and of its effectiveness in maintaining universal peace and security of peoples and promoting international cooperation on the basis of the strict observance of the principles and purposes of the U.N. Charter. Soviet Union and India are in favour of granting without delay to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam its legitimate place in the United Nations.

India and the Soviet Union support the right of the peoples to dispose of their national wealth and their struggle for the elimination of inequality, discrimination and exploitation from international economic relations.

The two sides exchanged views on the Law of the Sea and reiterated their intention to facilitate the achievement of agreement on a new convention of the Law of the Sea which would on the whole be acceptable to all states.

Both sides are of the opinion that the talks held by Mr. A. A. Gromyko with the Indian leaders made a major contribution to

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the development of mutual understanding and cooperation between the Governments of USSR and India and the reaffirmation of friendly ties between the two countries. They agreed to continue the practice of consulta-

tions and exchanges of views at various levels which has proven its value.

On behalf of the Soviet leadership, Mr. A. A. Gromyko conveyed an invitation to the Prime Minister of India, Shri Morarji Desai to pay an official visit to the Soviet Union. On behalf of the Government of USSR, Mr. Gromyko extended an invitation to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Minister of External Affairs of India, to pay an official visit to USSR at a time convenient to him. The invitations were accepted with thanks. The dates of the visits will be decided later.

USA INDIA FINLAND RUSSIA SRI LANKA MALI ISRAEL SWITZERLAND ZIMBABWE SOUTH AFRICA NAMIBIA VIETNAM

Date : Apr 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

250 Million Rouble Credit to India

The following is the text of a Press Note issued in New Delhi on April 27, 1977 on an agreement between India and USSR:

An agreement was concluded here today between the Governments of USSR and India under which the USSR has extended a credit of 250 million roubles to India which will be utilised for projects in the ferrous, metallurgical and coal mining industries as well as for such projects as may be mutually agreed upon by the two governments.

The credit will carry an interest rate of 21/2 per cent per annum and will be repayable over a period of 20 years including an initial grace period of three years.

INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Apr 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

VIETNAM

Shri Vajpayee's Speech at Dinner in Honour of Vietnam Foreign Minister

The following is the text of speech made by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, at dinner in honour of His Excellency Mr. Nguyen Duy Trinh, Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister of Socialist Republic of Vietnam, in New Delhi on April 12, 1977:

Your Excellency Mr. Nguyen Duy Trinh and Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to once again express our happiness that Your Excellency and the members of your delegation have kindly agreed to spend a few days with us after the meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Coordinating Bureau of Non-aligned countries. The contributions made by Your Excellency and the Vietnamese delegation have, in no small measure, led to the success of This meeting.

The people and Government of India have, for long, held in affection and admiration the heroic people of Vietnam in their valiant struggle against foreign interference and aggression culminating in their glorious victory and later in the re-unification of Vietnam. The people of India in their hearts shared the suffering and sacrifices of the Vietnamese people during their long struggle. This was only natural as it reflected our own struggle for freedom, and, after independence, the efforts to consolidate India's political and economic independence, free from foreign interference.

Since the unification of Vietnam in the middle of last year, it is a matter of added satisfaction that both our countries have established close cooperation with each other in the international arena. This cooperation

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adds a new and dynamic dimension, not only to Indo-Vietnamese relations, but also to the strengthening of new forces, towards the maintenance of world peace, and more particularly, of peace in our region.

Just a few days before Your Excellency's arrival in India there took place a historic event. The Indian people have, through their freely expressed will, bestowed the Party, to which I belong, with the honour of forming the Government of our country. I would like to reiterate India's continuing adherence to the policy of non-alignment which has been the cornerstone of our foreign policy since independence. I would like to take this opportunity, Excellency, of reaffirming our strong desire to further intensify the existing friendly and cooperative relations between India and Vietnam in matters of common international concern such as those which we have just dealt with during the Non-aligned Conference of Foreign Ministers. Briefly, we continue to pledge ourselves to bringing about a just world order in which there would not be any exploitation of weaker nations by stronger ones.

Your Excellency's Government is currently engaged in the gigantic tasks of economic reconstruction of your war-ravaged economy. Over the 30 years when your people were engaged in your freedom struggle, we in India were fortunate in gaining experience in the fields of agricultural, industrial and technological development, and we will be happy to share our experience and trained manpower. We are looking forward to the visit of your economic delegation in the near future. I am certain that this visit will help in identifying areas of economic cooperation between our two countries.

The Government and the people of India are eagerly looking forward to the proposed visit to His Excellency Mr. Pham Van Dong,

the Prime Minister of Vietnam, in autumn
this year as our honoured guest.

With these words, Excellencies, I propose a toast to the health of His Excellency Ton Duc Thang, President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; to the health of H.E. Mr. Pham Van Dong, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; to the health of H.E. Mr. Nguyen Duy Trinh, Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; and to the progress and prosperity of the friendly Vietnamese people.

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Date : Apr 01, 1977

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Date : May 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

AFGHANISTAN

Trade Talks between India and Afghanistan

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on May 28, 1977 on trade talks between India and Afghanistan:

Trade talks between India and Afghanistan concluded in New Delhi on May 28. The Indian delegation to talks was led by Shri A. N. Verma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and the Afghan delegation by Mr. G. H. Bayat, President, Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce. The Afghan delegation had been here since May 23 to have discussions on certain matters of bilateral interest in Indo-Afghan trade.

During discussions, consultations were held on new pattern of trade proposed by India in the context of liberalised import Policy already announced. The visit of the Afghan delegation at this stage was of exploratory nature and a decision on the new pattern of trade will be taken at a subsequent round of talks to be held shortly.

The present trade arrangements between India and Afghanistan are governed by trade agreement and protocol signed on September 3, 1975. This is valid for a period of three years. Among other things the agreement provides for a growth rate of 8 per cent in trade. Under the agreement, trade in specified commodities and goods is to be operated on counter-balancing basis. Remaining trade will be carried on in free convertible currency.

India's trade with Afghanistan is unique in that it is based on a modified system of barter. Successive trade arrangements between the two countries have provided for a system of counterbalancing trade where imports of fresh fruits, dry fruits, asafoetida, etc. from Afghanistan have to be counter-balanced by export made to that country. India's exports to Afghanistan include tea, coffee, sugar and other non-traditional goods. At least 50 per cent of India's export to Afghanistan are to be non-traditional.

AFGHANISTAN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : May 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

HOLLAND

Rs. 68.35 Crore Dutch Assistance to India

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on May 28, 1977 on the agreement on Dutch loans to India:

The Government of Netherlands has extended to India financial assistance amounting to nearly Rs. 68.35 crores (Dfl. 190 million) for the year 1977-78. The assistance comprises loans of about Rs. 62.59 crores and grant of about Rs. 5.76 crores.

Agreements for the loans have been signed at the Hague by Shri M. Rasgotra, Indian Ambassador to the Netherlands and Dr.

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P. C. Maas and Mr. I. F. Leijdersdorf of the Netherlands Investment Bank for Developing Countries,

Of the two loans, one is for an amount of Rs. 43.17 crores. This loan has been extended on DAC terms, viz. repayments extending over a period of 30 years inclusive of a grace period of 8 years and the interest at the rate of 2 1/2 per cent per annum. The other loan amounting to Rs. 19.42 crores is, however, on IDA terms i.e. repayments is 50 years inclusive of a grace period of 10 years and interest rate of 0.75 per cent per annum.

The Netherlands Government has also initiated a new Aid Programme for Most Seriously Affected Countries (MSAC), under which funds are provided on a grant basis to finance contracts which have been concluded by importers in the recipient countries with suppliers in the Netherlands, but which can-

not be financed due to financial or foreign exchange constraints. India is expected to get assistance from the Netherlands during 1977 under this programme.

The Netherlands Government is also providing additional assistance on a grant basis for implementation of some mutually agreed schemes in the Calcutta Metropolitan Area.

INDIA THE NETHERLANDS USA

Date : May 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND UNESCO

Joint Communique on Mr. M'Bow's Visit

The following is the text of a joint communique signed by His Excellency Mr. Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow, Director-General. UNESCO, and Shri P. Sabanaygam, Secretary., Ministry of Education and Social Welfare and Department of Culture, at the end of Mr. M'Bow's first official visit to India on May 22, 1977:

In response to an invitation from the Government of India Mr. Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow, Director-General of UNESCO accompanied by Mrs. M'Bow paid an official visit to India from the 14th to 22nd of May, 1977. During this visit he called on the President and the Prime Minister. He held discussions with the Minister of Education, Social Welfare and Culture, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting and the Minister of Steel and Mines and the Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs. He also met the scientists and technologists of the Department of Science and Technology and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. He addressed a meeting of intellectuals at

Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi sponsored by the Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO and had a meeting with the representatives of UNESCO clubs. He also addressed the members of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication.

Mr. and Mrs. M'Bow visited the National Museum, New Delhi and historical monuments at Delhi and Agra. They attended a special performance of music and dance in New Delhi. They also paid a two-day visit to Bombay where they saw the Fertilizer Corporation of India, the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, the National Centre for Performing Arts, the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and the Indian Institute of Technology. Mr. M'Bow gave an interview on Television and addressed the Press Conference on the eve of his departure from India.

During the various meetings the role of UNESCO and the cooperation between India and UNESCO were discussed. Mr. M'Bow explained the main lines of action being carried out by UNESCO at present to pursue its objectives of international cooperation and understanding through education, science, culture and communication. In each

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of these spheres, UNESCO has global, regional as well as national projects. Recently, efforts of UNESCO have been accelerated in the promotion of the new international economic order through developments in the fields of UNESCO's competence. The objectives of UNESCO to achieve international understanding and development while respecting different cultural identities and human dignity is very close to India's traditions and philosophy and Mr. M'Bow found close agreement between the goals of UNESCO and the view-points of Indian leaders.

The several on-going projects in which UNESCO is cooperating with India were reviewed and the areas for further projects and cooperation were explored. Mr. M'Bow expressed his admiration for the achievements of the Indian people in the fields of

UNESCO's competence, namely, education, science, culture and communication and particularly in the field of science and technology. He expressed his wish that UNESCO may call on the expertise available in India to assist developing countries by using Indian specialists and by providing fellowships for training in selected Indian institutions. He also assured that the Regional Office of UNESCO for Science and Technology located in New Delhi will be strengthened in order to further promote the cooperation between the countries of this region.

Mr. M'Bow emphasized UNESCO's readiness to make available to India the experience acquired by the world body or being obtained by it in the fields of special interest to India such as adult literacy and universalisation of primary education. He also assured support for India's projects in science and technology, such as those relating to environmental studies and protection, utilisation of solar energy, science policy studies etc., and other projects in education of the handicapped, culture and communication.

Mr. M'Bow expressed his deep appreciation to the Government of India for the opportunity given to him to visit and learn about India's experience in the fields of UNESCO's competence and for the generous hospitality with which he and Mrs. M'Bow were welcomed and expressed the conviction that it would lead to further strengthening of the cooperation between India and UNESCO which has existed since the very founding - thirty years ago - of this international organization.

INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : May 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

Shri Vajpayee's Statement

The Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, made the following statement in New Delhi on May 26, 1977 before leaving for Paris where he attended the Conference on International Economic Cooperation:

I am leaving for Paris to attend the concluding Ministerial session of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation -- the North-South dialogue as it has come to be known in popular parlance. This Conference was convened in December 1975 and was heralded, at that time, as an historic landmark in the evolution of a new and more equitable International Economic Order. The impression given was that International Community had at last recognised the need for realistic solutions to the problem of the widening gap between the developed and

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developing countries and the threat it posed to global stability and progress.

We have worked patiently and hard, together with fellow developing countries, to achieve progress on such key issues as the transfer of resources, the crushing debt burden of the developing countries, freer access to markets and the acceptance of the Integrated Commodity Programme and the Common Fund. We have also tried to project the special problems of oil importing developing countries whose vulnerable economies have received severe jolts in recent years. It is our earnest hope that, even at this late stage, the developed countries will show willingness to accept specific and meaningful commitments - attainment by 1980 of the target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for official development assistance, for instance - which would accelerate the rate of progress in developing countries and enable them to look to the future with confidence instead of gnawing doubts and uncer-

tainty.

During my visit to Paris, I shall have an opportunity to meet my colleagues from both developing and developed countries. We shall make a sincere effort to work for success of the Conference. I can see difficulties ahead and finding satisfactory solutions will not be easy. We shall, however, make every endeavour to persuade our friends in the developed countries to show the requisite vision and courage in meeting the legitimate aspirations of the developing countries. We are convinced that the failure of this Conference would be a serious set-back to the whole process of seeking solutions to North-South problems through friendly negotiations.

INDIA FRANCE USA

Date : May 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND THE E.E.C.

Shri Vajpayee's Speech at Lunch in Honour of H.E. Mr. Haferkamp

The Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee held a lunch in New Delhi on May 14, 1977 in honour of H.E. Mr. Wilhelm Haferkamp, Vice-president of the European Economic Commission in-charge of External Relations. Proposing the toast Shri Vajpayee said:

It gives me great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to you on behalf of the Government of India and my own. We have had a tradition of high-level contacts between India and the European Economic Community. We had the honour in April 1975 to welcome His Excellency Mr. Ortoli, then President of the Community. We also had a visit by your predecessor, Sir Christopher

Soames, and we are delighted that your visit should help in maintaining this excellent tradition.

Your visit takes place at a profoundly significant moment in the evolution of democracy in India, perhaps in the world. The people of this country have exercised their mature political judgement in a manner that bears testimony to their deep-rooted love of liberty and explodes the myth about liberty being a luxury, which only the rich nations can afford. Not the least remarkable feature of recent weeks has been the smooth and orderly transfer of power from the old Government to the new.

In welcoming you at this historic moment, we invite you to participate in our joy at the triumph of the democratic tradition in India. The Janata Party, which has received a massive mandate from the people, is firmly committed to policies of economic and social uplift of the masses at home and

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of strengthening world peace through friendship and cooperation abroad.

We attach special importance to our relations with the EEC which is India's largest trading partner and also one of the largest sources of development assistance to us. This assistance has been of great value and I would like to take this opportunity of expressing our sincere appreciation.

Relations between India and the EEC are fairly extensive, but the potential for their expansion is even larger. There is mutual interest in the realisation of this potential and our Joint Commission has been considering proposals and measures for elimination of the information gap, development and diversification of trade, cooperation in the field of industrial production, utilisation of Indian skills and equipment, etc. The Commercial Cooperation Agreement between India and the EEC rightly stresses the achieving of higher economic and social objectives and, in this connection, we would particularly welcome the Community's assistance in integrated rural development pro--

jects, particularly those that are employment-oriented.

Excellency, I would like to recall the words of foresight and wisdom that the President of the EEC, Mr. Roy Jenkins, addressed to European Parliament on February 8 last. "There is", he said, "in the Third World a unique potential for giving a non-inflationary stimulus to the stagnating economies of the industrial world. Rather as in recent decades, national economies have prospered by the spread across the social classes of the benefits of growth, so we should seek a second wind for the industrialised economies by giving to the peoples of the poor world the possibility of a significant increase in their standards of living". Also for moral considerations, Mr. Jenkins urged that "concern is indivisible and it would be a mockery of our sense of Community were we, because of our own difficulties, simply to lock the gates of our estate and tend our own gardens".

Your visit to India is taking place, Mr. Vice-President, on the eve of the concluding session of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation in Paris. The progress in the Conference so far has, unfortunately, been limited and we have noticed reluctance among some developed countries to the acceptance of specific and meaningful commitments. I would like to express the hope that the Community's delegation to CIEC would give an example of vision and courage in meeting the legitimate aspirations of the developing countries. It is our profound conviction that unless decisive steps are taken to reduce the ever widening gap between developed and developing countries, global stability and progress are likely to be fragile.

In concluding, may I invite you all to join me in a toast to the health of the distinguished Vice-President of the EEC, His Excellency Mr. Wilhelm Haferkamp, and to the strengthening of friendly and fruitful links between India and the European Economic Community.

INDIA USA FRANCE

Date : May 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

MALDIVES

India's Offer to Meet Educational Needs of Maldives

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 25, 1977 regarding India's offer to meet educational needs of Maldives:

India has offered to meet the educational requirements of Maldives to the maximum extent possible.

The subject was discussed in a meeting on May 25, 1977 between the visiting Maldives Minister of Education, Mr. Amir Abdul Sattar and the Union Minister for Education, Social Welfare and Culture, Dr. P. C. Chunder.

Mr. Sattar identified some of the requirements as need of in-service training for

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teachers, supply of books, provision for training of Montessori school teachers, and supply of educational equipment.

Dr. Chunder also offered India's expertise in developing self-reliant programmes in education, besides audio-visual aids for education including films.

Mr. Sattar is, at present, on a visit to this country at the Government's invitation. The Education Minister hosted a dinner in his honour last night.

MALDIVES INDIA USA

Date : May 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

SWEDEN

Swedish Development Aid of Rs. 48 Crores to India

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on May 26, 1977 on an agreement providing Swedish aid of Rs. 48 crores:

An agreement on development cooperation providing Swedish Aid of Rs. 48 crores (Skr. 240 million) to India for 1977-78 was signed in New Delhi on May 26, 1977 by Mr. Sten-Olof Doos, Deputy Director General, Swedish International Development Agency and Shri W. S. Tambe, Joint Secretary, Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of their respective Governments.

The Development Assistance is fully on a grant basis.

Out of the assistance of Rs. 48 crores (Skr. 240 million), an amount of Rs. 21 crores (Skr. 105 million) will be available for general imports. This portion of the aid is untied and can be used for financing imports from any part of the world to India's. best advantage.

A provision of Rs. 16 crores (Skr. 80 million) has been made in the agreement to finance imports of goods and services from Sweden. As in the past, this amount is expected to be utilised for import of bulk commodities and capital goods, and services from Sweden.

The agreement also provides for technical assistance to the extent of Rs. 11 crores (Skr. 55 million). This amount will be

utilised for implementation of several projects in the field of family welfare, health, fishing, forestry, export promotion etc.

The agreement also provides for remission in full of payments on principal, interest and service charges on earlier credits from Sweden falling due between June 1, 1977 and June 30, 1978, which is of the order of Rs. 2.4 crores (Skr. 12 million).

SWEDEN INDIA USA

Date : May 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Third Meeting of Indo-U.S. Sub-Commission on Education and Culture

The following is the text of a press note issued in New Delhi on April 27, 1977:

The two-day third meeting of the Indo-U.S. Sub-Commission on Education and Culture was held here on May 25-26, 1977.

The two Co-Chairmen were Dr. Franklin Long and Prof. M. S. Gore.

The American team consisted of: Dr. Fred H. Harrington, Programme Adviser of the Ford Foundation; Dr. Edward C. Dimock,

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President of the Institute of Indian Studies, University of Chicago; Dr. Eleanor B. Sheldon, President of the Social Science Research Council of New York; Mr. Phillips Talbot, President of the Asia Society of New York; and Miss S.E. Bistline.

The Indian team was as follows: Prof. P. G. Mavalankar, Member of Parliament and

Director of the Harold Laski Institute of Political Science; Prof. A. N. Bose, Vice-Chancellor of Jadavpur University; Prof. M. N. Srinivas of the Institute of Social and Economic Change; Prof, Raj Krishna of the Delhi School of Economics; and Prof. Mansur Alam of Osmania University. Both sides were assisted by officials also.

The meeting began on a promising note of expectations as the two leaders pledged to open new vistas in bilateral cooperation in the field of education and culture.

There is a greater awareness in both countries of the scope for cooperation and exchanges in this particular field, and availing of the present favourable climate, the Sub-Commission identified areas of new initiatives for future cooperation. Conscious of the fact that their endeavours should not be confined to academics and intellectuals, but must also invoke an interest in the public at large in both countries, the Sub-Commission agreed to work to develop avenues of cooperation between media experts, professionals, artistes and public at all levels.

Reviewing the progress of the past, the Sub-Commission reaffirmed its strong support for exchanges of 10 Fellows and Visitors for the coming year.

Similarly, the Sub-Commission expressed satisfaction over the Seminars held during the past year and expressed a desire for continuity of contacts and for follow-on programmes to these Seminars. The Sub-Commission accepted subjects for three new joint Seminars for the next year, the topics of which are as follows:

- (i) Relationship of University Research in Science and Technology to national development;
- (ii) Ethnic mobilisation in culturally diverse societies;
- (iii) Research in Education and learning.

The Sub-Commission also noted, with

appreciation, the work done by their Joint Museum Committee and the American and Indian Secretariats for developing distribution projects of feature films and documentaries in the two countries. Plans were presented for a major exhibition on "History of American Industrial Technology" in India for late 1977 and for an Indian exhibition of "Pre-Industrial Technology" in U.S.A. shortly thereafter. Ideas for future exhibitions were also explored and endorsed.

The Sub-Commission agreed that there was a great deal of scope for bi-national cooperation in the spheres of film, radio and television. To explore these possibilities, it was decided to set up a working group to identify specific areas and make proposals for future collaboration in these fields.

The Co-Chairmen agreed that the discussions during this meeting held out a promise of expanded Programme of collaboration between India and U.S.A. in the field of education and culture. They decided to keep in close touch with each other during the year to ensure implementation of these programmes.

The Sub-Commission ended its session on a very cordial note agreeing to meet again sometime towards the middle of next year.

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USA INDIA PERU

Date : May 01, 1977

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YUGOSLAVIA

11th Session of Indo-Yugoslav Joint Committee

India and Yugoslavia signed in New Delhi on May 20, 1977 agreed minutes at the end of their three-day joint committee meeting. The agreement was signed by the Commerce Minister, Shri Mohan Dharia and Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council of Yugoslavia, Dr. Anton Vratusa:

The 11th Session of the Indo-Yugoslav Joint Committee meeting began in New Delhi on May 18. The Indian delegation to the Session was led by Shri Mohan Dharia, Minister for Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation and the Yugoslav delegation was led by Dr. Anton Vratusa, Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council of Yugoslavia. The Indian delegation included representatives of the Ministries of Finance, Industry, Steel, Shipping and Transport and Civil Aviation.

Addressing the plenary session, Shri Mohan Dharia said that the relations between India, and Yugoslavia in the fields of commerce and industrial cooperations were a reflection of the close identity of views at the political level between the two countries. He said that although the commercial and industrial relations between India and Yugoslavia have gone through a qualitative change in the last two decades, still the full potential of the possibilities for increasing trade was yet to be realised. It can be seen from the fact that India accounts for less than 1 per cent share of the global imports into Yugoslavia which also holds true for the share of Yugoslavia in India's global imports. Besides, the number of items traded by the two countries was limited and as such the question of diversifying the composition of Indian exports to Yugoslavia and Yugoslav exports to India needs consideration. In this regard Shri Dharia emphasised the need for greater industrial cooperation. He said that the possibilities for industrial cooperation based on the complementary industrial capacities in India and Yugoslavia open up opportunities for securing a continuing growth in two-way trade. Shri Dharia also stressed the need for increasing industrial collaboration between India and Yugoslavia in third countries.

The Minister said that though there

were one or two projects where Indians or Yugoslavs had been the marginal suppliers of equipment but the big push was yet to come. He felt that the boom resulting from the phenomenal increase in oil revenues in the Gulf countries was beginning to taper off. Resulting in the deduction in the jobs available in those countries and a greater discrimination on their part regarding the choice of the contractors to undertake the jobs available. This, he added, opens up a real possibility for India and Yugoslavia to secure jobs in those countries.

Dr. Anton Vratusa, speaking on the occasion, hoped that the present deliberations would not only have technical significance but also help furthering development of friendly relations between India and Yugoslavia. He said that the national economies of both the countries have reached such level of diversification and capacities that fruitful cooperation could be worked out for furthering cooperation not only in the two countries but also in other developing countries. He sought further expansion of trade with India particularly in view of the fact that India's industry has the capacity to sell to Yugoslav market. He said that Yugoslavia would like to extend its cooperation with India still more in the field of ship building industry. He felt that industrial cooperation between the two countries have very good prospects in metallurgy, ship building, agriculture, electronics, energy and transport, and felt that steps should be taken to further them. Dr. Vratusa said that such cooperation between the two countries would also enlarge room for the third country ventures.

Dr. Vratusa also laid emphasis on co-operations in the field of technology and transfer of technology between the two countries. He was for a review of legislation and rules and procedures in each other countries

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to remove any obstacle coming in the way of expansion of trade and industrial cooperation to which the Union Commerce Minister; Shri Mohan Dharia also subscribed. In this regard, Shri Dharia mentioned the recent liberalisation of the import policy by the Government

of India which should help in the development of trade to the mutual advantage of both the countries.

The present level of trade between India and Yugoslavia has been showing significant increases in the last few years. From a level of Rs. 238.6 million in 1973-74 Indian commodity exports to Yugoslavia rose to Rs. 295 million in 1975-76. On the other hand imports from Yugoslavia increased from Rs. 86.2 million to Rs. 101.7 million during the same period. During the year 1976-77, figures for April-November show that Indian commodity exports amounted to Rs. 257.8 million while commodity imports from Yugoslavia were Rs. 165.3 million. The Joint Committee is expected to study the structure and composition of trade between India and Yugoslavia, which still continues to be dominated by a handful of items, and suggest measures to further diversify and expand it. While imports from Yugoslavia have mainly been of ships and tractor components, Indian exports to Yugoslavia are of diverse commodities like commercial vehicles, railway wagons, automobile and tractor components, electronic components and finished products, leather products as well as tea, coir and spices.

YUGOSLAVIA INDIA USA

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Date : Jun 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

AUSTRIA

Shri Mehta Visits Austria

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on June 6, 1977 on Foreign Secretary Mehta's visit to Austria:

The Foreign Secretary Shri J. S. Mehta who was on an official visit to Vienna from June 2 to 4, accompanied by the Indian Ambassador called on Chancellor Kreisky and was with him for 45 minutes. Earlier he had called on the Foreign Minister of Austria and also had a meeting with Dr. Eklund, the Director General, of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Indo-Austrian bilateral consultations with the Austrian Foreign Ministry were also held.

AUSTRIA USA INDIA

Date : Jun 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

DJIBOUTI

Greetings on Achievement of Independence

The Acting President, Shri B. D. Jatti,

and the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, have sent the following messages of greetings to H.E. Mr. Hassan Goultd, President of the Republic of Djibouti, on the occasion of achievement of Independence by that country:

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Excellency, on behalf of the Government and people of India and on my own behalf, I offer our heartiest congratulations to Your Excellency on the Independence of Djibouti. I am confident that under Your Excellency's leadership, Djibouti will progress and make significant contributions to Africa and the world. I look forward to continued cooperation between our two countries for attainment of our common ideals of peace, equality and progress. On this auspicious occasion, Excellency please accept the good wishes of the Government and people of India for the people of Djibouti.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Excellency, on this auspicious day when Djibouti emerges as a free and sovereign state, the Government and the people of India join me in sending you our warm felicitations and good wishes for the happiness and prosperity for the people of Djibouti. It is our earnest desire to establish close and fruitful cooperation between our two countries. We wish you every success in your task of consolidating the political and economic independence of Djibouti.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

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DJIBOUTI INDIA USA

Date : Jun 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

FRANCE

Shri Vajpayee's Speech in Hindi on French T.V.

The following is the text in English of an interview to the French television given in Hindi by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, External Affairs Minister, who was the leader of the Indian delegation to the Conference on International Economic Cooperation:

QUESTION: Mr. Minister, what are the relations between India and Soviet Union now?

ANSWER: The Government that was formed in India after the elections has decided to deepen its relations with all friendly countries. We have also decided that we would improve our relations also with those countries With whom our relations are not friendly. As regards Soviet Russia, relations between India and the Soviet Union have been quite friendly. These relations are being based on mutual interests and on the interests of the world. Though the economic and social systems in India and the Soviet Union are different, India and the Soviet Union have worked together for World peace and international cooperation. As the Foreign Minister of the new Government, I have had the opportunity to welcome the Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union Mr. Gromyko when he came to India. Our talks took place in an atmosphere of great friendship and frankness. We have decided that the area of our cooperation is Widened, that there should be greater depth in our relations and that the basis of our relations should be equality and mutuality. India and the Soviet Union both accept that our friendship should not be allowed to come in the way of developing friendly relations with third countries. We shall strengthen our ties of friendship with other countries too. I hope that our Indo-Soviet cooperation Will be further enlarged.

QUESTION: And between India and China ?

ANSWER: You know that China is our neighbour. Some time ago Ambassadors were exchanged between the two countries. Recently we have re-established commercial relations. There are some difficulties also between India and China. These difficulties have a long history. It is not necessary to dwell on them. It will be our endeavour to improve our relations with China as good neighbours.

QUESTION: After your official visit in France what would you say about relationship between India and France, of course?

ANSWER: The relations between India and France are very close. And both the countries believe in the great ideals of democracy. The people of India have recently expressed their faith in democratic processes'. The Great Revolution of France and their faith in liberty, equality and fraternity has inspired the people of India. These ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity are reflected in the Indian Constitution. France is playing an important role in Europe. We Wish that relations between France and India become closer and wider. There is considerable scope for cooperation in the economic, cultural and technical fields. I am confident that there Will be greater cordiality in the relations between India and France and the two countries will contribute to the making of a world in which there Will be liberty, peace and friendship.

QUESTION: The situation in India now - I read somewhere that prices are going up and the strikes are going on. So what is happening?

ANSWER: In the last two years there was press censorship in India. Prices were rising but no reports appeared about price rise. Workers went on strike but they were suppressed. The new Government restored fundamental rights. Now, workers who had been suppressed are going on strike in support of their just demands. It is the effort

of the new Government that problems should be solved through talks. Those demands of workers which are reasonable should be accepted. but at the same time, workers should be encouraged to increase production. Prices

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were rising before the new Government was formed. We are worried about this. We are trying that essential commodities should be cheap. Some steps have been taken in this connection. Where it is necessary to import goods from abroad, arrangements are being made. The distribution system is being improved. I am confident that these difficulties are temporary and with the co-operation of the people the new Government will overcome these difficulties.

FRANCE INDIA RUSSIA USA CHINA

Date : Jun 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

HUNGARY

Foreign Secretary's Visit

The following is the text of a press release issued on the Foreign Secretary, Shri Mehta's visit to Hungary:

The Foreign Secretary Shri J. S. Mehta visited Budapest and had wide ranging consultations with His Excellency Mr. Pal Cacy, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs for about three hours on June 6, 1977. Later he called on His Excellency Mr. Frigyes Puja, the Hungarian Foreign Minister and had fruitful discussions with him for an hour. In the afternoon of June 6, the Foreign Secretary called on His Excellency Mr. Ferenc Havasi, Deputy Prime Minister with whom he had a forty-five minute discussion.

HUNGARY USA

Date : Jun 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Shri Vajpayee's Speech in Lok Sabha

Speech by External Affairs Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in the Lok Sabha on June 29, 1977 while initiating debate on the demands for grants of the Ministry of External Affairs:

In the last 20 years I have often had to participate in the foreign policy debates. But it is for the first time that I shall have the salutary experience to be at the receiving end of the volleys of criticism. This is an indication that the times have changed and the people of India have put the responsibility of running the government on the shoulders of those who were thus far called reactionaries, and given the responsibility of constructive opposition to those who considered themselves indispensable.

First of all I would like to express my gratitude to all my predecessors - from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to Shri Yeshwant-rao Chavan, each one of whom has, in his own way, contributed to the framing and implementation of foreign policy. Pandit Nehru was, of course, the great architect of our international relations. I feel it my duty to express my gratitude to all of them.

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Truly speaking, whether one is in the opposition or in the government, the question of foreign policy so naturally connects us to

the promotion and protection of national interests which, detached from the play of domestic politics or the cut and thrust of Parliamentary debates, provides a quality of permanence to foreign policy, which is not static but dynamic and which does not go unconcerned of the given situation but takes it into account.

I hope, Sir, with the confidence which comes from the support of the people and the sensitivity to the broad national consensus in our international attitudes which we all share, I will be able to earn the support from all sides of the House in the discharge of my present responsibilities to guide our foreign policy.

The recent Lok Sabha elections were mainly contested on domestic issues. Foreign policy was not a question in debates. The Janata Party had said that in the international field it will pursue a genuinely non-aligned policy. One can very well ask why is Janata Party so emphatic about genuine non-alignment? My humble submission is that India should not only remain non-aligned but must also appear to be so. If anything that we say or do, gives rise to the feeling that we have leaned towards a particular bloc and have surrendered our sovereign right of judging issues on their merit, it will be a deviation from the straight but difficult path of non-alignment. The Janata Government would never allow this to happen.

NATIONAL CONSENSUS

Non-alignment is not the policy of an individual or a party. This is based on national consensus. After freeing itself of the clutches of imperialism, a great country like India could not possibly become a camp follower of some great power. This would have been a negation of the ideals of our struggle for independence and also against our national self-respect. The policy of non-alignment is, in fact, a logical and essential extension of the national independence in the field of international affairs. What has happened during the past three decades has, undoubtedly, proved the relevance of the

policy of non-alignment in the context of contemporary international scene.

Non-alignment is no longer a lonely cry for peace in a global battle ground of armed camps convinced that they were embarked on an ideological crusade which they thought would overwhelm or contain their adversaries. Now the voice of non-alignment has become the trumpet of more than half the total membership of the international community. As the House is aware, the new Government did not hesitate for a moment to confirm the meeting of the Non-aligned Bureau, even though it was scheduled to be held within a fortnight after we assumed office. The Bureau meeting provided us with an occasion to assure the Non-aligned fraternity that India remained committed to independence of judgment and to political attitudes and the economic programme which had been chalked out at the last summit meeting in Colombo.

We reaffirm this old tenet of policy because non-alignment recognises that in today's nuclear world, war or its inevitability must be ruled out. We cherish our national independence, but reject the need to consign national defence to a committed or dependent military or ideological arrangement. Non-alignment frees a nation from the pressures to borrow foreign models or adopt other ideologies which may be alien to a nation's civilisation or its ethos.

FLEXIBILITY

Today, all ideologies are getting domesticated and every country's development strategy has a character of its own. Non-alignment gives freedom of flexibility and yet enables a country to join with like-minded nations who face similar economic and political odds. As it happens today, all major powers, including those who belong to military alliance systems, accept that there is no alternative for the international community but to accept the logic of peaceful co-existence. Most nations, and non-aligned are in their forefront, go further and believe that international peace can only be secured through positive cooperation across ideological, political and military frontiers.

We cannot but commend the declaration of the President of the United States that anti-communism will not be test or drive of America's policies, and we are likewise convinced that the Soviet Union is deeply committed to the search for international detente and the easing of tensions amongst nations.

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Mr. Speaker, with the world accepting that peace and inter-dependence demand international co-operation, India is well placed to pursue a policy of simultaneously safeguarding its own interests and supporting the enlightened goals of international social justice.

I must, however, be quick to add that whatever success we may achieve or the weight of influence which we may carry in international affairs will not merely be through a rational foreign policy but will depend on our internal cohesion and the pace of our economic progress. This House reflects the strength and sagacity of our people. This ancient land draws vitality from its rich civilization, its tradition of tolerance, its vast wealth of resources, its people who have the mental capacity to master science and a physical capacity for hard work and inner discipline.

Our other great asset is that India has never lived by hate; we have no history of conquest or expansionism. We have always tried to win the heart and not the body. Our culture gives us no ground for a sense of inferiority or dependence.

MUTUAL BENEFIT

As a nation, we can be self-confident enough to clasp the hand of friendship everywhere and welcome cooperation which is based on dignity and can be judged on the touchstone of national and mutual benefit. Today, we are in a better position to give shape to our own willingness to co-operate, wherever there is proof of beneficial complementarity, with nations who have like-minded approach to international stability. It is in this spirit that we will continue to participate with the United Nations, the Non-aligned, the Group of 77 and developing

nations. It is in this spirit of mutual benefit entirely of a benign nature that we have and will seek to forge bilateral links with other nations regardless of their ideologies, level of development or their political system.

Since we assumed office we have, with this background and approach, hold high level conversations with the Kings of Nepal and Bhutan and the Soviet Foreign Minister, the Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany, with several Ministers who attended the Conferenec on International Economic Cooperation in Paris, and more recently with the Shahanshah of Iran, with the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary of U.K., other Heads of Government and Ministers at the Commonwealth Conference in London. It was gratifying to find that the rationale of our policies was never questioned. In fact, we can claim that not only have we been able to bring credibility to the continuity of old policies, we have discovered a positive desire to seek closer friendship with India. The world, I believe, has confidence in India. Enlightened nations everywhere have given us the assurances of their goodwill towards the Government of India under a new Captain like our Prime Minister and a new crew to take command of the ship of State.

Mr. Speaker, while making it quite clear that we stand by the broad outlines of our foreign policy and will respect all inherited obligations, let it not be mistaken for a policy of rigid immobilism. As I mentioned earlier. the world situation is changing. India itself is developing new industrial, technological skills, new dimensions to its commerce and new horizons for its economic capacities. As a new Government with a fresh mandate from the people, we consider it our duty, indeed our responsibility, to bring to bear a fresh scrutiny on the tasks and international problems as they may present themselves.

NEIGHBUORS

Sir, we have recognised that our first priority must be to promote a relationship of co-operation and trust with our immediate

neighbours. We share with them a common history and a great deal of common culture, but we also recognise their own right to determine their separate national fulfilment. We shall be vigilant about our territorial integrity but pose no threat to their national personalities. Overlooking any suspicions of the past and not denying that some problems will always arise with close neighbours, we believe it is in our separate and common interest to forge, on the basis of our geography, the sinews of economic co-operation in the sub-continent. If we succeed, we could ease the burdens for all our peoples so that some of the swords can be turned into ploughshares and the entire region can better

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tackle the common enemy of poverty and inherited degradation. If the Indian sub-continent remains free of tensions, it would command unique weight in the counsels of the world. It can be an example of how our ancient heritage can be transformed to modern progress. It can be a bridge to link the economic chasm which divides the world, and if we work together, we can be a powerful group of nations contributing to international stability.

It is with this vision that we have been directing our policies towards Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bhutan. We can claim that in some measure the climate for such trust and cooperation with our neighbours has already shown significant improvement. Some old suspicions and irritants have been removed; with sustained diplomacy and reciprocal response we hope we can move steadily forward.

I am aware that some members of the House have been exercised at reports which have appeared that Bangladesh nationals have been denied refuge in India. After seeing these reports, some senior officers were specially deputed to enquire into these allegations. After full scrutiny, they have concluded that no force or compulsion has been used or hardships inflicted on Bangladesh nationals who were in India. The House is no doubt aware that Prime Minister had made it clear in his conversation with

President Ziaur Rahman and in public statements that no Bangladesh nationals will be compelled to return to their own country. But the Constitutional rights of political liberty which we enjoy will not be extended to permit the use of Indian soil for hostile activities against our partner nations. If we were to permit such freedom, we would be going against the fundamental principles of co-existence and non-interference.

Our Government has also made progress in reaching the basis of an understanding with Bangladesh on the question of sharing of Ganga waters. We have yet to reach a comprehensive settlement. These waters are the life blood of our national economy, for our agriculture and our industry. In our approach we see the problem as one of development - of sharing sacrifices by taking into account the competitive needs and entitlements in the short run, so that we may make optimum use of the waters available for benefit to both our countries in the longer span of time.

SHARED INTEREST

Though our first concern is for our neighbourhood, we know we have a shared interest in the friendship, welfare and the search for self-reliance and progress by our friends in the wider circle of Asia and in the continents of Africa and Latin America. The Prime Minister has already spoken of a brief visit to Teheran and his conversations with His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah of Iran during which a gratifying reaffirmation of friendly relations emerged. With Afghanistan as well as the entire Arab world, we shall not only continue to seek to maintain old links, but further strengthen our economic cooperation. We have assured the Arab world that we shall continue to lend our full support for a just settlement of the West Asian problem based on the U.N. Resolutions which require the vacation of occupied territory. We hope that in the near future, the process of negotiations at Geneva will get under way so that there is peace based on justice and security for the States in the West Asian region.

With Africa, our old bonds are based on a common commitment against colonialism and racialism. We have been second to none in our principled support for majority rule in Zimbabwe and Namibia. Along with enlightened opinion everywhere, we are pledged to the eradication of the evils of apartheid or institutionalised racialism. But beyond this, we shall maintain the momentum to become partners in the effort of African nations for their national development. With countries like Tanzania, Zambia and Mauritius, we have already forged such many-sided economic links that one can almost claim the relationships to be models for cooperation among the developing countries. Our developmental experience is relevant and appears complementary to the needs of Africa in manpower and economic expertise. These beginnings are still confined largely to the Eastern Seaboard but we hope to overcome the disadvantage of geography to extend it further to West Africa.

REGIONAL STABILITY

With South-East Asian countries, India has very old links and no serious bilateral

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problems. We follow with interest their efforts to find the answer for national integration and economic development within the framework of regional stability. From our side, we shall lay greater emphasis and make more sustained efforts to develop even close political, economic and cultural relations with all the States of the region. We will also be ready to respond to any initiative in which we can contribute bilaterally or on a regional basis in the search for stability in this vital area. During the visit of the Foreign Minister of Vietnam, we had occasion to reaffirm our willingness to respond positively to the immense tasks faced by Vietnam and Laos in the reconstruction of their ravaged economies. We would also like to strengthen our relations with Australia and other countries in the South Pacific and have responded positively to the idea of periodical consultations amongst Asian and Pacific members of the Commonwealth.

The House is familiar with the ups and

downs of the story of our relations with China and the problems still remaining unresolved which complicated our relations. However, our Government welcomed the normalisation of our diplomatic relations and took the initiative to resume the severed trading links with that country. Based on the old Five Principles, we must have as our goal the forging of beneficial bilateral relations as is appropriate between two large Asian countries like India and China.

We have a feeling, Mr. Speaker, that India has in the past been slow to recognise the vitality and importance of Japan which now commands the third most powerful economy in the world. We hope to repair this hesitation not merely through trade, or greater technological exchange, but through closer rapport with this dynamic country.

INDO-SOVIET TIES

Members are already aware of the prompt initiative taken by our Government to invite the Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union to India soon after assuming office. The conversations with Mr. Gromyko were friendly and forthright and gave reasons for satisfaction to both countries. We believe the Soviet Union recognises fully that the new Government in office enjoys the full confidence of the Indian people. Both our countries accept and recognise the sincerity of the mutual desire to maintain a beneficial relationship covering so many diverse strands of cooperation. We have in fact no reason to doubt that the quality of relations between India and the Socialist countries of Europe have in any way suffered with the change of Government; on the contrary, the logic of mutual benefit and a common interest in peaceful co-existence and international stability promises even closer economic cooperation in the future.

U.S.A. AND WESTERN EUROPE

I come now to the relations with the developed continent of Europe and North America. Mr. Speaker, unlike the apparent judgement of the previous Government, in our perception we do not see the relations

with the Socialist countries in any way inhibiting the search for improved relations with the USA and Western Europe. There were undoubtedly hesitations on the part of Western democracies in their attitude towards India and particularly after the developments which took place when the Emergency was proclaimed. Many well-motivated friends in Europe and USA expressed their concern and raised their voice in protest at the degeneration of India into authoritarianism. The credit for the resurgence of democracy in India goes to no one else but the people of India. Our people have given the lie to those political scientists who thought that the successful practice of Parliamentary democracy could take place only in affluent Europe and the Anglo-Saxon world. On the other hand, there were other social democrats, statesmen and the people in the communication media who had maintained faith in the democratic strength of India. I would like to express my gratitude to those people who kept faith in the democratic resilience of the Indian people. Anyway, be it in the media or the people at large, there is a new fund of goodwill and respect abroad for India which, we feel sure, will help to improve relations with Europe and North America.

Our relationship with Western Europe is valuable not merely because the European Economic Community is the biggest trading partner of India but because there is scope for obtaining technology and resources which could be oriented for our own economic development. Besides the diversity and mutually

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beneficial nature of our ties with the countries of the EEC, we also enjoy cordial relations with the other countries of Western Europe. Many of them have taken an enlightened interest in our problems and have extended their wholehearted cooperation in our developmental efforts. There is no hesitation on our part to have a better dialogue with Europe. If anything, it is for Western Europe to decide to what extent in its own perspective of the world, a mature, self-reliant Non-aligned, non-disruptionist India can be looked upon as a worthy partner in the quest for international stability and co-

operation.

Time does not permit me, Mr. Speaker, to dwell on a host of problems which confront the international community.

Like with Western Europe, we have reason to believe that after the recent developments in India, the climate for the restoration and improvement of relations, based on dignity and self-respect, with Canada and the USA is also more propitious. The new administration in USA is taking a fresh look at the world to find a new balance between their own national interests and a more co-operative world order. The diplomatic exchanges between the Prime Minister and President Carter have been characterised by warmth and understanding and augur well for the future. We hope the USA in its policies will assist the process of stability in South Asia which is the goal of our national policies.

GREETINGS TO INDIANS ABROAD

On this occasion, when I speak on foreign policy for the first time from the Government benches, I would like to send a message of greetings to the millions of sons and daughters of India who are working or residing abroad in different parts of the world - be they under governmental cooperation or as private citizens. Each one of them in his way is a messenger of India and a symbol of our ancient civilization and culture. Though they may have chosen to go to work or reside abroad, we shall never disown them or fail to appreciate and reciprocate their loyalty to the culture and heritage of their motherland. Wherever they are, they carry the stamp of India's heritage. We must, however, advise them to prove worthy of the traditions of tolerance and the capacity for adjustment characteristic of the land of their forefathers. In their own interests, as also for the fair name of India, we hope that even when they work for their own benefit, they will seek to identify themselves with the enlightened interests of the country of their domicile and abide, as required, by the laws of the land of their residence.

We believe, India is well placed and the political climate in the world is propitious for pursuing within the framework of non-alignment the twin basic objectives of our policies - national interests and international co-operation. In the last two years, for the first time since World War II, the world is free from international conflicts. Never before has the logic of detente been so widely recognised. All responsible nations acknowledge that no nation can today expand and dominate or even insiduously seek to beggar its neighbours. No nation can survive or prosper alone, and peace, we know, is only the twin brother of nuclear annihilation! Have the nations any alternative but to make a more positive effort to co-operate for international social justice?

As far as India is concerned, we are committed to making sacrifices for the enlightened well-being of the whole world. We are gratified at the pledges of friendship which we have received. If we persist purposefully in our domestic endeavours, we are confident that in our external relationships we shall command respect and obtain reciprocal goodwill from the community of nations as never before.

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INDIA USA SRI LANKA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC NEPAL BHUTAN GERMANY FRANCE IRAN
UNITED KINGDOM PAKISTAN BANGLADESH PERU AFGHANISTAN SWITZERLAND NAMIBIA
ZIMBABWE TANZANIA ZAMBIA MAURITIUS VIETNAM LAOS CHINA MALI JAPAN CANADA

Date : Jun 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND THE COMMONWEALTH

Prime Minister's Speech in Lok Sabha

The following is the text of the state-

ment by the Prime Minister Shri Morarji Desai in the Lok Sabha Rajya Sabha in New Delhi on June 17, 1977 regarding his participation in the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in London:

As the House is aware, I returned this morning after attending the meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government. In this tour I also stopped off for a few hours in Tehran at the invitation of His Imperial Majesty Shahanshah and for a day in Paris as guest of the President of France. Both of them are old and valued friends with whom I was very happy to renew friendships in my discussions. Not only were we able to advance the cause of mutual collaboration and cooperation in matters of common concern but we also found a great deal of similarity of approach to world problems particularly those pertaining to energy.

This was my first trip abroad after the assumption of office by our Government. It was a matter of great satisfaction to find that following our democratic elections and the orderly change of Government, the esteem and prestige of India had not only been restored but demonstrably enhanced in the international community. In my talks not only with the Shahanshah, the leaders of the British Government and those of France, but also with other Heads of Government attending the Commonwealth Conference, in the contacts with the Press media and indeed with people in all walks of life, there was admiration for the maturity of the Indian people in their dedication and commitment to the democratic system of Government. When questioned, on various occasions, I pointed out that the tradition of democracy was rooted in the ancient civilization of India. Foreign rule and such aberrations like the period of emergency, were contrary to our values and our national ethos; the elections have shown that in the final instance the Indian people have an inherent moral courage to judge and elect their own rulers without fear. Privately and publicly, I assured all concerned that the new Government of India, buoyed by the trust of the Indian people, are totally dedicated to the principles of democracy and would ensure

that our constitutional principles can never again be perverted. In turn, I was told that the extraordinary courage and sagacity of the Indian people was an asset and an encouragement to like-minded people all over the world. I, therefore, regard whatever success I achieved and the attention and respect I received, as a tribute to our people who proclaimed to the whole world through their verdict their faith in democratic values, their disapproval of authoritarianism and their judgement and capacity to choose a Government which they could trust to serve them.

The Conference of Heads of Government of the Commonwealth was held in London after a lapse of eight years. The Commonwealth is I would emphasise, an association of independent States, entirely free in their internal and external policies, some still owing allegiance to the British Crown, others with monarchies of their own and some like ourselves with a purely republican constitution, but all free to express themselves as suits the interests of their own country and motivated by securing a consensus on problems of their common concern.

The Commonwealth as the House is aware, is a multi-racial and multi-continental community of nations representing one quarter of mankind, some rich and strong, others small and weak. But all recognise the logic of inter-dependence and commonality of interests. In population, India represents more than half of its total number of inhabitants. Unlike the United Nations, the Commonwealth is not structured or governed by elaborate procedures. It mirrors the diversity of the entire community of nations, but has a character of informality and a tradition of cooperation which is perhaps unique. The Commonwealth as it is now constituted,

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thus provides the kind of balance which we want to see in the world and is an institution which can in course of time set the pattern for a Commonwealth of the whole world.

The Conference met under the Chairmanship of my old friend and the Prime

Minister of U.K.' Mr. James Callaghan. He proved an admirable Chairman whose bonhomie, cheerful disposition, balanced approach to the various issues that came up were contributory to the evolution of a common outlook and approach that underlie the decisions that were reached. I found in him and all the other Heads of Government or leaders of the various countries a keen desire to take a constructive attitude and come together, rather than drift apart. The problems discussed were such sensitive subjects as those of Human Rights, Southern Africa, Indian Ocean, North-South Economic relationship the problems of developing countries, in all of which there could have been reasons for differences of opinion. But as the result of the deliberations embodied in the communique which was issued at the end would show, all of us showed willingness to reach a consensus without sacrifice of the national viewpoints.

We participated actively in the discussions on all subjects, particularly the review of the international situation, Southern Africa and world economic problems. In the socio-economic context, we highlighted the relevance and significance of evolving and adopting technologies appropriate to the social and economic conditions obtaining in the developing countries. We emphasised that the role of machines was to assist man in increasing his productivity and not make him their slave. We pointed out that development effort and economic progress should focus on the small and the poor and not go astray by the lure of the big and the grandiose. The crucial need for solving the problems of food production, storage and distribution and implementing our integrated programme of rural development and industrialisation were effectively brought out in our statements.

The communique issued in London day-before-yesterday, which must have received the attention of Honourable Members already, reflects the range of subjects and the depth of discussions, and the broad consensus reached at the conference. it covers all major International problems like Southern Africa, the Middle East,

Indian Ocean, Cyprus, and the widening gap between rich and poor nations and makes practical recommendations on economic trade and functional cooperation within the Commonwealth.

A number of Commonwealth countries were greatly concerned over the question of human rights in relation to Uganda. The Singapore Declaration of Principles adopted by the Commonwealth Heads of Government in 1971, affirmed the belief of all Commonwealth Governments in fundamental rights and respect for human dignity and equality. As the House is only too well aware, we are fully committed to these principles. While the discussions on this subject at the conference were not without differences of opinion, a broadly acceptable formulation was eventually worked out in keeping with the Commonwealth traditions.

It would, I think, be appropriate at this stage to pay tribute to the work of the Commonwealth Secretariat, now under the able leadership of Mr. Ramphal, formerly Foreign Minister of Guyana. Apart from the many activities of the Secretariat to maintain the diverse professional and institutional links among Commonwealth countries, and its innovative role in expanding intra-Commonwealth cooperation, the Secretariat has taken very creditable initiatives in the field of economic cooperation among the Commonwealth countries. By all international standards, the Commonwealth Secretariat's efforts to promote such cooperation have shown beneficial results at comparatively low cost. We in India have been glad not only to contribute to this cooperative programme, but have also benefitted from it, especially in our trade promotion efforts.

Besides the deliberations of the conference, the great value of the gathering was that it provided an opportunity for informal and bilateral contacts with so many distinguished leaders of Commonwealth Governments. Apart from renewing my friendship with the British Prime Minister, Mr. Callaghan, I had purposeful discussions with the President of Bangladesh about our regional and bilateral problems. Both President Zia

and I agreed that it was in our national and common interests that our relations should be built on the logic of good neighbourly co-

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operation. With the Canadian Prime Minister, we reviewed the problems which had come up in the way of our harmonious relations and agreed that within the framework of our respective national policies, efforts should be made so that beneficial cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology can be resumed and the old tradition of Indo-Canadian friendship revived. The Prime Minister of Australia and I felt that from their respective geographic vantage points. Commonwealth Governments of Asia and the Pacific might with advantage establish closer contacts in a region where they share common interests. Similarly, from my conversations with President Kaunda of Zambia, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam of Mauritius, and other leaders of African nations on the one hand and the Prime Minister of Jamaica and the leaders of the Caribbean on the other, I sensed that the Commonwealth countries cherished their relationships with India and expressed a firm desire to intensify and enlarge the established avenues of our cooperation. The Foreign Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, separately met many of his colleagues, and like myself came away with the impression that every Commonwealth partner sought not merely to maintain but to strengthen its relations with the new Government of India. In his conversations he also covered many important issues concerning our bilateral relations with various Commonwealth countries.

This visit also provided me with opportunities to meet a large number of representatives of the Indian community resident in the United Kingdom and also of the world Press and media. Everywhere a new kind of interest in India was now evident. Whether it was the Indian community or the media, there is a feeling of renewed faith and expectation from democratic India. In the largely attended meeting of the Indian community which was held in London on June 12, on behalf of our people I responded

with warmth to the dedicated and emotional interest which they have in the land of their birth. At the same time, I called upon them to be worthy of the traditions of this ancient land by winning respect through genuinely motivated efforts towards social adjustment with the people of the country of their present domicile.

Sir, this visit vividly conveyed to me that almost every country sought not only the friendship of our country, but would, I believe, rejoice at our political triumph and our economic achievements. There was no Commonwealth country which, after understanding the policies to which the present Government is pledged, looks upon India with malice or indulges in any unwarranted criticism towards our national objectives. It is recognised that the policy of true non-alignment as enunciated and practised by us not only serves our interests but makes India a coveted partner in their own network of relationships and their view of a stable world order. However, we know only too well that the role we can play in the international forums will ultimately depend on our domestic strength and the progress we make towards economic, scientific and technological self-reliance.

As mentioned earlier, I met his Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah of Iran in Tehran. During the discussions, the Foreign Minister and I had the pleasure of meeting Prime Minister Hoveyda and Foreign Minister Khalatbari. Our discussions were wide-ranging in scope and gave abundant proof of Iran's goodwill and the abiding vitality and potential of our collaboration. Moreover we agreed that our countries have shared interest in the stability and progress of the region to which we both belong.

Similarly, the stopover in Paris on the way back, at the request of the President of France, afforded to me another opportunity to discuss a number of issues of common interest. My conversations with President Giscard d'Estaing and Prime Minister Barre were extremely friendly and reinforced the prospects of our close and beneficial relations with France.

Questions relating to the use of nuclear energy in the context of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons were raised with me in many conversations. I had the opportunity of reaffirming our position, which had been made clear on many occasions, both in this country and outside, that we are interested in developing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes only.

Sir, we have wider options to develop beneficial relations with the community of nations than ever in the past in the last three months since we assumed office, within the framework of the positive thrust of non-

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alignment. we have assured old friends of our abiding commitments and repaired estranged relationships, both near and far. We can claim that our neighbours have greater trust in our friendship and the sub-continent as a whole is less disturbed by tensions and more inclined to cooperation. The Commonwealth conference and this trip abroad provided me with an opportunity to affirm to the leaders from all parts of the world that this Government of India, sustained in the exhilaration of the trust of its people and inspired once again by the vision and idealism of Gandhiji, will be second to none in its commitment to a world at peace striving towards international social justice.

Altogether, this opportunity of meeting the Heads of more than 30 Commonwealth countries, the Shahanshah of Iran and the President and Prime Minister of France, proved that India commands great goodwill and respect in the international community.

INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA IRAN FRANCE MALI CYPRUS UGANDA REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
GUYANA BANGLADESH AUSTRALIA ZAMBIA MAURITIUS JAMAICA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jun 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

Prime Minister's Reply to Callaghan

The following is the text of Prime Minister Morarji Desai's reply to Prime Minister Callaghan's opening speech of welcome at the Commonwealth Conference at London on June 8, 1977:

Mr Chairman and friends, it gives me great pleasure to join in responding heartily to Prime Minister Callaghan's eloquent address of welcome to this historic session of Commonwealth Conference in the Silver Jubilee year of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom.

The Commonwealth has evolved out of the vicissitudes of history. During the heyday of British Empire few countries within the Empire met in Imperial Conferences. With the development of the dominion concept under the statute of Westminster, a very important departure was made in changing the nomenclature to the British Commonwealth of Nations not all having dominion status but bound together by a common allegiance to the British Crown. The end of Second World War marked a very significant change. In the opening of new frontiers of freedom an institutional transformation came over this association of free peoples in common endeavour, and newly constituted republics also became entitled to be members and the British Monarch was recognised as the symbol of free association of the independent member nations and as such head of the Commonwealth. In a matter of some years the Commonwealth set up its own independent secretariat.

I have briefly referred to this history only to show that the Commonwealth, both structurally and qualitatively, has marched with the times and, in that process, has shown an adaptability and dynamism which have enabled it to survive situations which could have brought about its destruction. In this great act of adjustment, all Member

Governments have played a notable part marked by those touches of wisdom and statesmanship which often transform the scene from a seemingly impenetrable gloom to the vista of enlightenment. I am sure at this historic meeting you will join me in paying tribute to these gifted leaders of opinion of the Commonwealth who served us so well in the past.

If I wish to impart such Significance to this historic Session it is not only to take pride in our history and achievements but also to show how with a breadth of vision and sagacity we can maintain the continuity of unity and collective endeavour despite the challenges and threats even to our own survival. Today we are a community of sovereign nations no longer bound by the allegiance to the Crown but by common interests of the peoples to whom we owe that allegiance. The diversity of those peoples, multi-racial and spread all over the globe, rich and poor, strong and weak, meet in collective deliberation fired with only one objective, namely, to serve mankind in a meaningful manner and advance the interests of our peoples not in isolation but in association. Whether we have differences or whether we agree it is always the interests of our own

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peoples and the world community that we have in our minds.

These interests today transcend narrow and history-bound problems of politics but embrace much broader, closer and more intimate questions of bread, shelter and physical well-being of millions of people that inhabit the far-flung countries of the Commonwealth. The post-war world has proved to be a world of growing awareness of ourselves. It has revealed cracks in our civilisation which call for repair if we have to protect the world against upheavals and misery. Rich and poor live together to the 'envy of one and in the field of service for the other. The problems are not viewed as one dividing the whole world into sections and in a narrow parochial context; they have to be looked at as constituting a challenge to humanity as a whole. We can solve them only if we are

impelled by a single-minded devotion to the cause of humanity - their dream of a better life to lead their passion for freedom from fear, their keen desire to break down the barriers of race and religion and their earnestness to save this sacred planet of ours from threats to its destruction.

The whole package of problems that affect the world can be solved only if we have faith in and trust and confidence of our peoples. Government and administration today have to be open and purposeful. Both have to be justified by performance and achievements. We have to justify ourselves and win the confidence of our people not by regimentation but by hard and sustained work within the knowledge and gaze of the public. In our own country recently, you have seen how a democratic upsurge can sweep before it personalities which seemed to have acquired a permanent lease of power and institutions which seemed impregnable. The glory of our people is that they achieved this transformation by the exercise of free vote and in a peaceful manner. But it has thrown over us the weight of responsibility which we can carry only with popular support and cooperation. We have therefore to work and live with and for our people. But when we take into account that responsibility, we have to think not of ourselves who bear it, but of the cross of misery, privation and discontent which millions have to bear. I only hope that at the conclusion of our deliberations, we shall have the satisfaction of lightening the burden of our peoples, of taking the message of hope and cheer to them and of justifying the faith and belief that we met to solve and not add to their problems.

I for my part have reached the age when I can philosophically look back on many views of the world and its history I formed during the times that have seen the hours of glory as well as the hours of near doom. But participating in this great and momentous meeting I have only one desire and one ambition. And that is to ensure that we bring to bear on our problems the common urge to come together rather than to drift apart. And I do hope under the guidance of

our distinguished colleague the British Prime Minister and my old and valued friend Mr. Callaghan we shall succeed in that overall purpose. We both have dabbled in the past with Finance in the administration of which we learn to husband our resources and dispose of them purposefully. We are both today at the head of our respective Governments and together. I am very happy indeed that time has made this renewal of association possible and I, as the junior-most head of Government but the oldest in time, rejoice to find him presiding over our meetings.

Our agenda is comprehensive enough as the entire gamut of international problems in some way or the other impinges on our discussions. The Secretariat Report shows that the Commonwealth is alive to the problems and active in promoting beneficial co-operation between and for our Membership. Our deliberations must be inspired not by the narrow national concern or the anxieties of our bilateral problems but the common determination that the Commonwealth can survive only if it can be looked upon as a beneficial force for the dignity of man and social justice in the World which is free of violence and secure in peace. I may assure you that India for its part would participate not for any ulterior purpose but only in order that our association can show an example of true unity in the midst of diversity.

One word more and I have done. As I look around the table I cannot help feeling that we are a United Nations in miniature. Mr. Chairman may I share with you and my other friends here the thought perhaps, a forgivable ambition - that in course of time,

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this institution will set a pattern for the formation of a Commonwealth of Nations reflecting a veritable mirror of the world. It is that hope that aspiration to which I cling with all sincerity of conviction and it is that ideal which gives me strength in sustaining my attachment to this great institution.

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INDIA AND THE COMMONWEALTH

Prime Minister Morarji Desai's Address on Economic Matters

The following is the text of the address on economic matters by Shri Morarji Desai, the Prime Minister of India at the Commonwealth Conference in London on June 14, 1977:

Mr. Chairman, as we are aware, for several years in the past, I had been intimately interested in the financial and economic problems of my country. I am glad that this conference has been devoting a great deal of attention to the problems of inflation and recession in which the world has been so intensely and seriously involved during the last few years. My interest in matters of finance and economics has been both official and personal. In the international sphere, I have followed with apprehension and concern the devastating effect of inflation combined with a persistent recession which caused a steep fall in the prices of commodities and created continued monetary instability. This has given a severe jolt to the economy of so many countries throughout the world, whether they are developed or developing countries. Although the sudden increase in oil prices and the subsequent further doses of increases have been among the main contributory factors, in my view national policies in trade and monetary fields cannot be completely absolved from blame. We are, therefore, today face-to-face with a problem which, though a legacy of the recent past, is demanding of urgent attention. The problem is with us and will continue to plague us in future. Prudence dictates that the process of recovery has to be brought

about on a wider front. Even though it has begun in developed countries it is still weak and faltering in many of those economies. So far as the developing countries are concerned, it is not only a question of recover -- it is a question of survival.

The developing countries themselves do not present a uniform picture. The poorer among those which are commonly described as non-oil developing countries, have been very seriously affected and as time passes, their plight is going to worsen and not improve unless collective and cooperative action is expeditiously taken to pull them out of a grave and persistent situation. Their collective balance of payments deficit which was in the region of nine billion dollars per year in the early '70s has reached an appalling dimension of between 30 to 40 billion dollars. Earlier, developed countries had also run into such deficits but they had in their favour strength and resilience of their economies, their measures of mutual help and the large access they had to liquidity provided by the International Monetary Fund helped them considerably to bear the shock. Consequently, the balance of payments turned around and showed a small surplus in 1975. Even though in 1976, a deficit has occurred, it is a small one, and has not caused much anxiety. Their deficits however are largely financed by the funds recycled and the OPEC countries and they have the benefit of increased OPEC markets. On the other hand, in the non-oil developing countries, balance of payments deficit has become a structural feature of their economy and, barring some favoured states, the benefits from the recycling of the surplus funds of the OPEC countries have been only marginal in recent years.

It was inevitable in the circumstances that the non-oil developing countries should have accumulated a considerable volume of indebtedness. The total indebtedness is in the region of 175 billion dollars out of which 100 billion dollars are likely to be that of the poorer developing countries with a per capita income of two hundred dollars or less.

The tale of woe does not stop here.

Forecasts made by independent research organisations indicate that the deficits of the

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non-oil developing countries are likely to go on increasing in future. To add to their misery, the foreign exchange available to them has not been sufficient to raise their growth rate. Instead, their average growth rate per year declined from the level of 5 per cent at the end of the first development decade to 3.5 per cent in the first five years of the second development decade. In the decline of this rate and the threatened continuance of that decline, the presumption of a sizeable proportion of their foreign exchange receipts for the payment of debit service has seriously abridged and will continue to abridge their growth performance.

It is quite obvious in the circumstances that the developing countries would find themselves in an unenviable situation. On the one hand their economy has further grievously worsened during the last six or seven years for reasons not only beyond their control but also beyond their capacity to retrieve. On the other, their own economic strength has substantially diminished. My submission, Mr. Chairman, is that it is not out of charity that OPEC and developed countries have to pull them out of despair and despondency but that call of humanity and demands of brotherhood, both of which must appeal to a Commonwealth gathering like ours, require that their problems receive sympathetic consideration and are meaningfully solved with as little delay as possible. These countries are the victims of history and crisis after crisis has overtaken them while they were still finding their feet after securing freedom from colonialism and exploitation. Political issues, however important, pale into insignificance when measured against global challenges as well as opportunities in the economy of the next two decades. These opportunities have to be taken advantage of in time otherwise they will slip beyond recall. The relations of today or tomorrow between nations are going to be determined not so much by political accord and accommodation as by the manner in

which they can be helped to avoid the economic strains and stresses. The problems of poverty, unemployment and underemployment and of removing inequalities in a world which is becoming more and more aware of gaps and shortcomings and more and more intolerant of failures and shortfalls in performance are placing a grim burden of responsibility on Governments with limited resources at their command.

For several years, the world community has made loud professions of containing the expansion of poverty and reducing its incidence. For several years, a search for the eradication of poverty and through it elimination of a major threat to world peace and stability has been going on. May I remind this gathering that empty stomachs are no respecter of persons or institutions. However, the new international economic order about which many pious sentiments have been expressed since the sixth special session of the U.N. General Assembly must not be allowed to remain a utopian dream. For the time being it is the only answer to the problems that we have been discussing. It is a realistic and indeed, a necessary goal if we are to survive the elemental problems which threaten us and thus reach the goal of an international society based on the concepts of equity, sovereign equality, interdependence and justice.

My distinguished friend, the Prime Minister of Singapore, referred the other day to the threat that communism posed and the ills which capitalism suffers from. May I respectfully point out that no "ism" can bring solace to the millions of poverty-stricken people who are in want, in fear and in misery. What can bring them comfort and contentment is the elimination of these dangers to civilised existence. Both from the point of view of intensity and immensity of the ravages of poverty from which millions suffer, the problem is one of great magnitude and urgency. We have to ask ourselves if we are doing enough and in time to deal with the menace of privation and the prospects of starvation which may in course of time, not very distant, grip those very millions who are today living below the

poverty line.

In this context it is sad to recall that it was as long ago as in 1974 at the sixth special session of the U.N. General Assembly that the principles of the new international economic order were formulated and accepted by that august body. The new economic order is not the culmination of our efforts but the beginning. May I ask the question as to whether we have made that beginning? Since then we have had many meetings of

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some institution or the other. In the great debates which preceded the establishment of the new international economic order many problems of utilisation of world resources and evolution of many reliable methods of mutual cooperation and crisis containment with the United Nations' system have been thrown up. We have before us the valuable report of the MCINTYRE Group of experts from the Commonwealth whose recommendations constitute the sign-posts on the road to the new international economic order. Only last month, we had the Downing Street summit of industrialised countries. For the first time some real awareness of the problems of the developing countries has been demonstrated. The recently concluded Conference on International Economic Cooperation in Paris also evinces some evidence on the international communities' desire to take steps towards the problems of developing countries. All these deliberations have made some advance in enabling us to decide how we can combat the gripping economic situation which has been with us for the last six or seven years and threatens to plague us for several years ahead.

Nevertheless the road to new international economic order seems to me to be rough and appears to be tortuous and somewhat long. The global attack on the besetting sin of poverty has to be a total attack from all sides and a relentless one. I doubt, however, if whatever we have achieved in the way of deliberations and decisions on these problems which are virtually those of survival carry us far enough in dealing with the prob-

lems. They define the ends and the strategy in general terms but the problems of finance and infrastructure have been left at the stage of definition.

If I have raised these doubts and drawn attention to the difficulties, it is because I feel that being a free association of developed and developing countries the Commonwealth has a crucial role to play in the progress of the new international economic order and has a unique opportunity of giving a lead to the world by expeditiously implementing the recommendations of the MCINTYRE Group of experts. The attack, as the experts observed, 'call for firm commitments from all parties to match rhetoric with concrete action' and as observed by the Group, the main objective of international development policies should be to secure the minimum necessities of life for all mankind.

We in India have made our own efforts to learn from this experience and achieve the goals of the new economic order. Like all poor developing countries we are committed to a policy of self-reliance and to lift ourselves to the maximum extent possible by our own efforts. Our primary goal is the eradication of poverty which is also the main objective of the new international economic order. We are trying to do this within a democratic framework where freedom from want shares the pride of place with the preservation of individual freedom and its concomitant freedom from fear. Purely in economic terms, we believe that a mere addition to national incomes and wealth is devoid of social content, unless there is equal emphasis on a redistribution of incomes and wealth, which is designed to invest the life of the deprived sections of society with meaning. For this purpose we are committed to strengthening the foundations of a society by providing the poor and the under-privileged at least a minimum of food, clothing, shelter and employment. Development of agriculture, rural development, reorganising industrial structure and development of small-scale industries which are employment-oriented are among the chief means which we are hoping to use for this purpose. At the same time, our idea of collective self-

reliance is not based on exclusiveness or hostility to the outside world. We shall do the best we can on our own but accept the helping hand of friends who would wish to soften and sweeten the hard lot of mortal existence.

To my mind, Mr. Chairman, there are two requisites of an action programme which we all have collectively to hammer out. One is for each one of us to help ourselves to the maximum degree feasible in order to improve our own economic conditions. The other is for the international community to organise itself meaningfully and as soon as possible to implement the various programmes that have emerged out of the exercise of collective wisdom. In the fulfilment of both these requisites we have to enter into long-term commitments as against short-term remedies to which we seem to be devoting concentrated attention. It took us some years to formulate the principles of the new economic order. It has taken three

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years to decide how to implement them. Even now we have no concrete agreed long-terms plans to deal with more serious situation of imbalances which is going to affect our economy for years to come. In my humble submission to this gathering I would urge that the people are becoming more and more conscious of the gaps in their life as compared to those of their neighbours even in distant lands. What is even more challenging is the fact that they realise they have been victims of history and are also becoming conscious of their power. We in our own country have had an outstanding example of the exercise of that power. My final appeal to this gathering is, therefore, to devise some method of dealing with the various problems with the sense of urgency, determination and single-mindedness of purpose which alone can save the situation from getting worse and may be not in the distant future beyond remedy except at enormous cost and serious threat of grave danger to the security and stability of the world.

Time was when we used to regard industrialisation as an indispensable means of

attaining affluence and a comfortable standard of living. In the process we put faith in large scale units, in magnificent structures of establishments, and in schemes which made men the slave of machines and increased their appetite for more, which are bound to remain unsatisfied. We thought that these were going to achieve the millennium. of prosperity and happiness of the world's population. Today we find that we have to fight hard the evils that flow from the pursuit of these mirages. The frontiers of desire go on extending. The pollution and slum are creating problems of hygiene and health. Men are not content with what they have and hold society to ransom. They are becoming more vociferous about their rights and less conscious of their obligations. It is against all these evils of modern progress which made Gandhiji resort to the unorthodox and unconventional programme of rural re-construction and self-reliance. His was not a lone voice against the present machine age. He was able to impress many in different lands with his new approach which centred around the man, his family and his community rather than on the mechanised world. The emphasis was on small things which could be brought together into a big venture. Schumacher also recognised the evil effects of modern development on ecology and human personality. As has been aptly stated, from bigness comes impersonality, insensitivity and a lust to concentrate absolute power while small is efficient, creative, enjoyable and enduring'. Affluence has now become a continuous almost intolerable burden and cities have posed problems which seem unsurmountable except at considerable cost of labour and money. The rural areas which have suffered neglect for decades have again come into their own and thus we have begun to realise with Shakespeare the whirling of time has its own revenges'.

Mr. Chairman, I am sorry that I have trespassed on your valuable time but I thought that the cause of the poor should be placed before you in its stark reality. What we need is an action programme, both in the short-term and in the long-term. We also need understanding and cooperation. I

should like this distinguished gathering to end its deliberations on this subject of national and international importance all over the world on that note and thereby convince the people at large that we know and mean business.

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INDIA AND THE COMMONWEALTH

Shri Vajpayee's Address at Royal Commonwealth Society

Address by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee on June 10, 1977, at the Royal Commonwealth Society, London:

I am indeed honoured to have been invited to address the Royal Commonwealth Society which had played its part in the formation of the British Empire and now, in the changed context, continues to contribute to the activities of the Commonwealth. I must confess that it still seems quite incredible at times that I should be in this city of London, as a Minister of the Government of India participating in the Silver Jubilee functions of Her Majesty when, not so long ago, I was in enforced idleness with no prospects of a future. But I have come here conscious of the fact that it is the people

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of India, in the exercise of their democratic maturity, who have given this privilege and responsibility to me and to my colleagues of the Janata Party.

This city of London, thousands of miles from our shores, has seen decisions which for 200 years and more affected the fate of India

and of her people. I cannot but recall that exactly 100 years ago, in this city, the Queen of England was proclaimed the Empress of India. I am told that I am now staying in the same hotel, indeed in the same suite of rooms, where Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru stayed when he attended the first Commonwealth Conference in 1948 and the second in 1949. It was then a small little British Commonwealth of 8 or 9 countries. Now its membership has grown to four times the number, representing all the continents and takes republicanism in a casual stride.

SENSE OF HISTORY

I do feel a sense of history here in London at this Commonwealth Conference. History has its inequities and there was much which was inequitable in the Indo-British relations. But history has its surprises, too. A hundred years ago, people in this country could never have imagined that India would claim and earn its independence, then cherish a system of Parliamentary Democracy based on the British model and later become a Republic and yet accept the British monarchy as a symbol of association with independent nations who accept allegiance to the Crown. I dare say no one in India or abroad thought that the exercise of democratic rights would lead to such emphatic repudiation of the Congress Party with governance consigned to the heads of new and often inexperienced individuals like me. Now much has happened in the span of time whilst the history of the two nations was made and transformed. It is a tribute to the people of India and the people of England that such transformation of a historical relationship, from an empire into a Commonwealth and a subject nation into a democracy, should have taken place within our life time, in a manner which both nations can be proud of. This is a splendid example of how the injustice of history can be turned into strength and wisdom.

The Commonwealth thrives today because it holds together a vast diversity only by the common will of its member nations. It enforces no discipline and has no means of compulsions. It lives because, regardless of

history, we all believe in the logic of interdependence and cooperation of individual social justice and national dignity. With the back-drop of the Commonwealth Conference and the historic change in the Government of India, I would like to speak on the theme of continuity and change in our perspectives on international relationships. The elections in India, as you know, were vigorously contested, underlining the basic democratic nature of the country - as is only right and proper in a free democracy. But the issues on which the electorate was asked to vote were purely domestic. In fact, fundamentally, the choice before the people was between authoritarianism and democracy. Questions of foreign policy were seldom raised and never debated. The ingredients of national interest, which led to the emergence of a national consensus long ago, determined the foreign policy of India. This we have reaffirmed. I will not deny that there were many fears and expectations when we formed the Government that the ship of State may embark on an erratic course.

The foreign policy of India has come to be identified with the policy of non-alignment. Semantically, this might give the idea that this is a negative concept. It was negative only in the sense that it defied the notions prevailing after the war that national interest and national security of all countries could only be safeguarded with a total commitment to one or the other ideological or military blocs. In fact, even in Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's concept, the refusal to join one or the other bloc was an assertion of the positive freedom to pursue international relationships of peaceful co-existence based on bilateral interests and principles of international morality without regard to any ideological or bloc discipline. India did not presume then to prescribe policies for other countries or claim to pronounce on the internal or external policies of partner nations. India wanted to pursue her own development in an atmosphere of peace conducive to the fulfilment of the imperatives of national regeneration. The other pillar of the policy was our awareness that our independence must be seen as a

part of the process of decolonisation. It was

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also an assertion that for India the defiance of prevailing bloc policies was a contribution to peace. This rationale of non-alignment is as valid today as it was then in the early years of our independence.

RATIONALE OF NON-ALIGNMENT

Non-alignment as a policy or as an assertion of inter-national morality is no longer questioned for its rationale. Though military alliances still exist, no one today argues that ideology provides an over-riding reason for the protection or pursuit of national interest.

In fact, even though it may not always be acknowledged, some members even of the military alliances seem to pursue the logic of non-alignment in exploring their own national interest. In any case, there are nearly 86 countries which have seen merit in joining the fraternity of the non-aligned. The concept of non-alignment, which used to be regarded as immoral by one super-power and unnecessary by the other, has now achieved a degree of respectability. Its prophetic wisdom, at least for the newly emerged countries, has been vindicated both by the votaries and erstwhile critics.

Is the policy of the new Government of India then completely a continuation of the policies of the previous Government? Why then has the new Government decided to emphasize non-alignment by qualifying it as "genuine" and "even-handed"? If there is a nuance of change, it is in fact to focus on the positive thrust sometimes overlooked in these decades but which was always a constituent of the original concept. The new Government will exercise true independence of judgment and aim at a fearless search for the pursuit of international principles and beneficial bilateral cooperation. We do not intend to play the game of power politics alternatively threatening or placating one power against another as an assertion of independence. We believe that the relations between two countries must have a logic of transparent benefit for both. We will of

course, remain detached from the blocs, but we do not have to display hostility towards one group of countries as a means to serve the ends of friendship towards another. To put it differently, we are not prepared to allow one set of our relationship to stand in the way of good relations with other countries. We believe that this relaxed non-aggressive attitude serves our interest. It is conducive to the climate of cooperation: it should help to reduce tensions, lower suspicions and promote positive understanding.

MUTUAL BENEFIT

If today we value our relationship with the Commonwealth it is because it accommodates the same kind of independence and relationship of mutual benefit which cuts across ethnic, religious, economic and political diversities.

With this background, it was not difficult for the new Government to assure its partner nations of the essential continuity underlying our foreign policy. We had the opportunity within a week after assumption of office of hosting a meeting of the Bureau of Non-aligned countries at which nearly fifty countries were represented who reaffirmed their faith and commitment to non-alignment.

INDO-SOVIET TREATY

With the visit of Foreign Minister Gromyko, the new Government was able to explain to the Soviet Union that it intends to preserve and strengthen Indo-Soviet relations which, cover interests in diverse fields. The Soviet Union has recognised and respected the validity of India's policies and position. It was never a relationship based on ideological considerations but one in line with the search for detente and international stability. The spirit of the Indo-Soviet Treaty of 1971 embodies this friendship and in no way compromises India's policy of non-alignment.

Let me add that, as we understand it, the Indo-Soviet Treaty in no way inhibits the development of relations with other countries which fits in with our national needs and

purposes.

The logic of independently determined pursuit of national benefit does in no way debar us from having improved relations with the United States, Western Europe, Japan and with any other country or group of nations. In fact we have reason to believe that the new Government's policies are well understood and the climate is propitious for better relations with the Federal Republic of Germany and the Carter Administration in the U.S.A.

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The fact is that as a result of developmental experience and economic progress, India today has the option to develop beneficial economic relations with all countries in different continents. Our developmental experience and technical manpower have provided us with the opportunity of responding positively when called upon to cooperate with African countries. We have similarly been able to forge a different pattern of relationship, again based on economic complementarity, with Iran and the Arab World, particularly in the Gulf states. In yet another variation of economic cooperation, we have established joint ventures either through the participation of our public sector or the private sector with the countries of South East Asia. The point to note is that the entire spectrum of relations is developed within the framework of non-alignment and positively beneficial bilateral relationships.

PURSUIT OF PEACE

I have mentioned that one of the basic tenets of our policy is the pursuit of peace. Naturally, peace begins at home and the present Government intends to pursue, even more vigorously than its predecessor, the policy of friendship and understanding between India and its neighbours. We have, fortunately, excellent relations with most of them. There are no problems between us and Burma; the question of the maritime boundaries between Sri Lanka and India and arrangements for the repatriation of Indian settlers in that country have been amicably settled. There is in India the greatest good-

will and friendship for Nepal and therefore such minor difficulties as may arise from time to time can be settled easily. With Bangladesh, we have had the problem of distribution of waters of the Ganga river, but the new Government has been able to reach an understanding with Bangladesh which, we hope, will be embodied in an agreement.

Our relations with Pakistan have unfortunately not always been as happy as we would have wished them to be, but we are glad that in 1976 the relations were normalised. The new Government has assured Pakistan that we seek to build our relations on the logic of the community of interests as between neighbours. Our relations with China, too, since 1962, have not been altogether what we would have desired. But these are now improving. The Ambassadors who were withdrawn in 1962, returned to each other's capitals in 1976. We have just resumed some trade between China and ourselves. The sub-continent and the region around is more stable than ever before - and this, we believe, is a happy sign for all the nations of the region.

PROBLEM OF POVERTY

India was never an isolationist in its approach to international economic order. We have always stressed that the one real threat to the maintenance of peace is the problem of poverty and economic underdevelopment. Stated in simple terms, the problem is that two-thirds of the human race, living in areas well endowed with natural resources and populated very often by people inheriting ancient culture and high technical skills, are wallowing in extreme poverty while one-third of the humanity has become rich and is becoming richer through a maldistribution of the wealth of this world. This has been brought about mainly through historical factors but is now being maintained by a whole set of regulations governing international trade, movement of capital and movement of population, the total effect of which is that obstacles are created in the way of development of the vast untapped resources of this planet.

I do not wish to labour this point at length, but I would be less than honest if I were not to confess to a sense of disappointment when I had my first direct experience of an international Conference on this subject in Paris last month. What we agreed or failed to agree on is not so important as the attitudes of many of the rich countries of the world, which are so concerned with increasing their already high standard of living thus preventing the transfer of resources to the countries which have the raw materials on which their higher standard of living, in the long term depends.

STRUCTURAL IMBALANCE

I do not think it is sufficiently appreciated that the present economic stagnation and unemployment in the developed world, which is conveniently attributed to the rise in the price of oil, are really the signs of a structural imbalance that has been created

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by over-development of the productive capacity in certain parts of the world without, at the same time, creating the markets on which alone the Prosperity of the producers of this wealth depends. The rich can, of course, continue to trade among themselves but the demands of their people for material goods and prosperity are already surfeited and there is a limit to greater and still greater mechanisation of life.

In the twentieth century, the sources of raw materials, at least the cheaper and more abundant sources, are under the control of independent powers. The markets which exist in terms of human needs are not based on genuine economic demands because of the lack of purchasing power. What is becoming increasingly apparent is that the problem of the economically under-developed countries is not their problem alone but is a wider economic problem affecting the developed ones also. Unless much larger amounts of money are spent on what in commercial terms must be regarded as the creation of markets, there is bound to be economic stagnation arising from continuing high technological advance causing greater unemploy-

ment in the developed countries themselves.

NUCLEAR POLICY

In this survey I have not dealt with all the international problems in detail. Our commitment to majority rule and the elimination of racial indignities in Africa are well-known and need no iteration. I have also not dealt with another problem which is in the forefront of international debate - the problem of non-proliferation of atomic weapons technology. The twin pillars of our nuclear policy are that we renounce any intentions of choosing the nuclear weapons' option and are determined to use this field of science for fulfilling peaceful requirements especially to meet our future energy needs. Our objection to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty is that it permanently divides all nations into two categories - the responsible and the irresponsible - the responsible ones being those who have developed the capability for manufacturing nuclear weapons at a given point of time and the irresponsible ones who wish to reserve their right to develop nuclear energy in the future. We resent this classification, but we have made it quite clear that our traditional stand is to pursue non-violence and refuse to turn nuclear science to destructive purposes. We cannot accept the restraints on peaceful development of nuclear energy, but we have not, and will not, in any way, directly or indirectly, contribute to the spreading of this dreadful technology for mass destruction or retaliatory deterrence.

We recognise that India's role in international relations will, in the final analysis, depend on the measure of our, own economic self-reliance and the extent to which we can contribute to the solution of problems of our inter-dependent world through international cooperation. Non-alignment affords the best hope both for serving our national interests and promoting inter-dependence and detente. An economically strong India, we believe, sustained by the intrinsic force of the democratic system, could be a truly honest and dependable partner in the quest for international peace. We want liberty and social justice for our own people and this, we be-

lieve, is consistent with the search for dignity, equality and equitable balance in the community of nations.

INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA PERU JAPAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC GERMANY IRAN
BURMA SRI LANKA NEPAL BANGLADESH PAKISTAN MALI CHINA FRANCE RUSSIA

Date : Jun 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND THE COMMONWEALTH

Statement on South Africa

The following is the statements of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs at the morning session of the Commonwealth Conference on June 10, 1977 :

We in this conference, starting with the British prime Minister's inaugural address, have all recognised the importance of Southern Africa. India's commitment to independence and racial dignity in Africa even predates our own struggle for independence. In fact, we have always believed that our own freedom could not be considered fulfilled until we have redeemed Gandhiji's pledge to end racial inequality in Southern Africa. Today, the process of liberation of this continent is almost complete. The British, the French and the Portuguese Empires have gone the way all unequal dominions must. International opinion in the U.N., the O.A.U. and most re-

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cently at the Maputo conference, have reaffirmed their pledge to end minority rule, bringing independence to Namibia and give civic rights of equality in South Africa. We must acknowledge the courageous support of frontline states, three of them belonging to the Commonwealth, to persist in the hope for peaceful transfer to majority rule. In

the last two years we have seen ups and downs in the hope of a negotiated process of transfer for African rule in Zimbabwe. We must acknowledge the initiative taken by the British Foreign Secretary, Dr. David Owen, to find a way out after the failure of the Geneva Conference. The British Foreign Secretary is now joined by the Carter Administration in wanting to press for a constitutional arrangement which would remove this illegal Smith Regime. All the weight of opinion and initiative runs up against the Intransigence of the illegal Smith Regime. If the Smith Regime continues to defy the world, can there be any alternative to a bitter and more extensive conflict which could only end in a racial war?

The fact of the matter is that there is no problem on which there is such an international consensus as the problems of Zimbabwe and Namibia and the focus is now very much on the conference of Commonwealth Nations. This is not merely because Britain still has a constitutional responsibility for Rhodesia. We have rightfully been claiming that of all the international institutions, the British Empire has shown its ability to transform itself into the Commonwealth of equal nations with great capacity for adjustment to the post-colonial world. But our achievement may be undone if racially-oriented minority domination should persist in an old part of the empire. There may be countries which may rejoice at the prospect of conflagration of racial war. Whether it is from the standpoint of decolonisation, self-determination, principles of human rights, racial equality or just the several international obligations of peace and co-operation, it is incumbent on us to persuade if possible or throttle if necessary, the white minority regime, and to do so quickly. It cannot be allowed to make armed incursions against its neighbours as has happened only recently. The sanctions must be tightened and in particular, as President Kaunda says the oil export to Rhodesia must be stopped until Mr. Smith gives up his desperate policies. We should encourage unity amongst liberation movements. But even more, we have to be committed to a fuller support to compel a change by Smith. If we do not,

sheer circumstances may make Zimbabwe also a cold war.

We in the Commonwealth must, however, really think even beyond the objective of majority rule. At Kingston, the Commonwealth showed statesmanship in authorising the Secretary-General to assist Mozambique with technical help even though it was a non-Commonwealth country. We must give a mandate to the Secretary General not only to assist but, equally important, that when the majority community assume-, the reins of office and faces the task of creating a dependable infrastructure for administration and development in the wake of true independence Zimbabwe will be able to draw on expertise and financial backing of the Commonwealth partners. Alongwith Zimbabwe we must be equally uniform to accelerate the process of independence and constitutional change in Namibia. We could not really carry credibility if the representative character of SWAPO is questioned. In fact in Namibia as in other Bantustans, the danger is that South Africa may seek to give the appearance of independence while manipulating to retain the real levers of control. If our objective is to win trust and bring about peaceful change, then there must be a time reflection of the representatives of the people and meaningful administration that the old colonial attitudes have finally, in form and substance, come to an end.

As far as India is concerned, our own national commitment to assist the process of liberation and share the burden of the frontline states till the process is complete has been throughout categorical. We have done so up to our capacity in the past and will continue to take a full share of the burden of the future. Incidentally, one cannot but express admiration for Lesotho and Botswana, who have adhered to their principled stand despite the economic odds they face because of their geographical situation. India is ready to contribute a million rupees for the Lesotho Special Fund and half a million for the Botswana Special Fund to be used at their discretion for Indian goods and technical services. We have already made a similar commitment to Mozambique and depending on the progress of the Mozambique tak-

ing advantage of the assistance offered, we would find the men and financial subvention to help Mozambique face the economic and administrative problems, which it faces from severing links with the minority regime in Rhodesia. I have no doubt the other Commonwealth countries will look at the immediate solutions of the eventual problems of Southern Africa in the same enlightened spirit which has given the Commonwealth the resilience of keeping abreast of history.

INDIA SOUTH AFRICA USA MOZAMBIQUE NAMIBIA ZIMBABWE SWITZERLAND CENTRAL
AFRICAN REPUBLIC JAMAICA LESOTHO BOTSWANA

Date : Jun 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND THE COMMONWEALTH

Cyprus Issue

The following is the text of the speech made by the Minister of External Affairs Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee at the Commonwealth Conference in London on June 9, 1977 on the Cyprus issue:

I am happy that President Makarios has found it possible to participate in the Conference in spite of his ill health. We wish him speedy recovery to good health. President Makarios' great political insight and wisdom cannot but add to the depth and fruitfulness of our deliberations here. We in India have long cherished a deep personal regard for President Makarios and for the friendship and goodwill he has shown for the people of India.

The Cyprus issue is an extremely com-

plex political problem and at the same time a problem of human relations. There is much sad history that cannot be reversed or erased but with determination, patience and goodwill it should be possible to forgive even if not to forget. The only possible solution for Cyprus lies in a genuine national reconciliation and in the concentration on building a common future of peace and progress for the people of the island.

We have followed the various phases of the tragedy in Cyprus with deep emotions. As a nation which has itself gone through the trauma of partition, we have a special sensitivity for the agonies of the people of Cyprus. It is our earnest prayer that peace and happiness should return to this land whose people have suffered so long under the cruel blows of fate.

Even from a cold viewpoint of geopolitics peace in Cyprus is essential for stability in Mediterranean which in turn is a prerequisite for world peace. Thus the urgency for an early solution to the festering problem in Cyprus becomes all the greater.

My Government wishes to firmly reiterate its commitment to the territorial integrity, sovereignty, independence and the non-aligned character of the Republic of Cyprus, As a member of the Contact Group of Five Non-aligned countries constituted by the UN General Assembly in 1974 to work towards an early solution to the Cyprus crisis, India has been intimately associated with practically every resolution on Cyprus in various international fora. These include U.N.G.A. and Security Council resolutions, in particular the basic UNGA Resolution 3213 (XXIX) of November 1, 1974. We have stressed the importance of an early implementation of these U.N. resolutions on Cyprus and have favoured negotiations between the two communities on a free and equal footing as the best possible means to this end. India is also member of the Commonwealth Committee set up after the Kingston meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government, to help promote a solution of the Cyprus Question.

A solution in Cyprus cannot be imposed from outside. It will have to be arrived at by the people of Cyprus through free, peaceful and equal negotiations between the two communities, in an atmosphere free of prejudice and rigidity. This may be a long-drawn-out and painful process but in the long-run it is the only viable one. It is heartening for us to note that both the communities are agreed that Cyprus should be united, sovereign and non-aligned. They are also one in conviction that there is no practicable alternative to bi-communal negotiations which have happily been resumed recently after a prolonged stalemate. Though wide differences persist, on most of the basic issues for discussion their resumption is a sign of hope for Cyprus and its people."

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INDIA CYPRUS USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Jun 01, 1977

Volume No

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INDIA AND I.D.A.

Credits to India

The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi on June 4, 1977 on thee \$222 million I.D.A. Credits to India:

Three credit agreements for a total value of 222 million dollars were signed in Washington on June 1, 1977 between India and the International Development Association (IDA). Mr. Ernest Stem, Vice President, World Bank, signed the agreements on behalf of the IDA and Ambassador Kewal Singh signed on behalf of India.

One of the three agreements is for a credit of \$ 200 million from the IDA to the Agricultural Refinance and Development

Corporation (IRDC). The credit will assist in providing loans to farmers for on-farm development purposes, mainly minor irrigation. It will also cover development of tree crops, dairy, poultry, agriculture, fisheries and several other agricultural activities. About \$ 100 million of the credit will be reserved for small farmers who will qualify for preferential borrowing terms.

The other two credit agreements are for strengthening and expanding agricultural extension services and the upgrading of research facilities in West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Stern said that the World Bank attached very great importance to its involvement in the development of the rural sector in India.

INDIA LATVIA

Date : Jun 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

Shri Ahuja's Statement

The following is the text of the statement made by Shri V. K. Ahuja, Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs on behalf of the Indian delegation at the concluding session of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation on June 3, 1977 in Paris:

We are here today to take stock of the results of the conference on International Economic Cooperation which has been meeting intermittently over a period of 18 months. This is not a run-of-the-mill conference and is the first one at which the entire gamut of North-South economic rela-

tions has been examined in some depth. The high hopes with which the dialogue was launched in December 1975 are still fresh in our minds. The distinguished President of France, to whom we owe the initiative for calling this conference, described its inauguration as 'the first day on which global economic problems have found a place in the collective consciousness of our species'. He added: 'Justice demands that we adopt a bold and realistic approach to the problems

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of the developing countries and particularly of the most under-privileged of them'. Other statements at the session were in a similar vein though I shall not burden you with more quotations.

In the context of the high hopes which this conference aroused, it is pertinent to ask how the results measure up to the expectations.

In the crucial area of transfer of resources, in particular official development assistance, there has been progress in agreeing to soften the terms of such assistance. There have also been clear indications by the major industrialised countries of their willingness to commit themselves to 'progressive and substantial' increase in their official development aids (O.D.A.). Japan has accepted a commitment to more than double her O.D.A. over the next five years and we have reason to believe that some other important countries propose to act in the same sense. While this will still leave them far short of the internationally accepted target of 0.7 per cent. we believe that we should at least recognise that they are moving in the right direction. In our view they can and should move faster but we do not wish to discourage them by failing to express our appreciation.

The second major problem that we have tried to highlight here is the crushing debt burden of developing countries. We have tried to explain that this problem should be viewed in its proper developmental perspective rather than as an answer to crisis situations. We have suggested that an across-the-board solution of these problems would sig-

nificantly accelerate the pace of their development by placing additional resources at their disposal in the most united and quickest disbursing form. Unfortunately our pleas have been in vain and the developed countries have continued to insist on a case-by-case approach. We know what a case-by-case and year-by-year approach means and it was because of the constant uncertainties about the resource position that we asked for a surgical operation which would put the body economic into a healthier shape. May I say how much we regret the lack of response on the part of G-8. I trust that they would give this matter further thought and come up with adequate solutions during the discussions on debts later this year under the auspices of UNCTAD. A proposal has been put forward by the EEC-US-CANADA and others for a special action programme of \$ one billion to assist the poorer countries. This is a positive step which we welcome, but we must recognise that the relief to poor countries under this programme will make only a small dent on the staggering problems with which they are confronted. Would it be too much to hope for a programme more commensurate with their needs?

Mr. Chairman, we have noted signs of movement in Group-8 on the question of "Integrated Commodity Programme" and the Common Fund. We are glad that there is near agreement on a text relating to this subject. This, however, is not the end of the story and we are aware of the difficult road which lies ahead. I would like to express the hope that the negotiations on this subject planned for November will be marked by a sympathetic understanding of the problems of developing countries and will be crowned with success.

The conference has brought about a better appreciation of the difficult energy outlook and underscored the need for international cooperation for intensifying, programmes for exploration, diversification and development of energy resources. In this area the oil-importing developing countries would, in particular, need special assistance on appropriate terms, preferably through in-

ternational development financing institutions.

Mr. Chairman, I must confess that we have been participating in this conference in the genuine hope of helping in evolving global solutions to global problems. It is not a question of Group-19 confronting Group-8 on the other side of the table with a view to extracting the maximum concessions from it. It is rather a case of representatives of a group of nations with goodwill, courage and vision sitting together to look at the problems with which the humanity is faced so as to work out solutions, which would contribute to the stability and progress for all of us. Looked at in this context, we are convinced that the existing international economic order with consumerism and heavy wastage at one end of the scale and poverty, misery and want at the other cannot endure.

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As president Carter said in his recent address to the University of Notre Dam: 'We know that a peaceful world cannot exist one-third rich and two-thirds hungry'. We regret that the urgency with which this problem needs to be tackled has not been sufficiently in evidence here and that the conference has stopped far short of achieving the results which had been expected of it. This is a source of disappointment to us. We realize however that Paris is not the beginning or the end of the North-South dialogue. The problems that we have tried to tackle here will not run away and will have to be faced boldly and squarely if there is to be hope for global peace and stability.

INDIA FRANCE USA JAPAN CANADA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jun 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

The following is a press release issued in New Delhi on the Indo-Iraq Joint Commission:

Shri H. N. Bahuguna, Minister for Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilizers and Co-Chairman of the Indo-Iraq Joint Commission left for Baghdad on June 23, 1977 for the Third Session of the Joint Commission. A nine-member delegation left for Baghdad on June 20, 1977, and started discussions at official level from June 21, 1977.

The Joint Commission for Economic and Technical Cooperation was constituted on March 28, 1974 to bring the growing economic and technical cooperation between India and Iraq within an institutional framework. The first meeting of the Joint Commission was held at Baghdad in January 1975 and the second in New Delhi in March April 1976.

IRAQ INDIA USA

Date : Jun 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

The Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee made the following statement in New Delhi on June 3, 1977 on the situation arising from incursions of

Rhodesian forces into Mozambique:

On behalf of the Government and the people of India, I wish to express our strong and unequivocal condemnation of the armed incursions by the Rhodesian forces into Mozambique territory. The whole world has followed with indignation the complete disregard by the illegal Smith regime of the legitimate demand of the people of Zimbabwe for immediate independence. The latest provocative and criminal act of the Smith

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regime in violating the territorial integrity of Mozambique, particularly in the wake of the historic U.N. Conference at Maputo which in no ambiguous terms demanded the speedy transfer of power to the people of Zimbabwe on the basis of majority rule, only goes to prove that the illegal Smith regime continues with its intransigent and aggressive policies. In this grave hour, the Government and people of India wish to express their admiration for the valiant people of Mozambique who have suffered so much from the brutal policies of the Smith regime. What has happened during the past few days can have dangerous consequences in Southern Africa and the world community must react to the situation firmly and speedily.

MOZAMBIQUE INDIA ZIMBABWE USA

Date : Jun 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

India Releases 120 Pakistani Nationals

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on June 25, 1977

on India's release of 120 Pakistanis nationals:

India today released 120 Pakistani nationals under detention in the country for repatriation to Pakistan. The detainees were handed over to the Pakistani authorities this morning at the Attari-Wagah border.

It will be recalled that the Government of India had earlier announced its decision to release 188 Pakistani detainees in India on a unilateral basis. The Pakistan Government have so far identified 120 detainees and agreed to their repatriation to Pakistan. The cases of the remaining Pakistani nationals are still under consideration with the Pakistan Government.

PAKISTAN INDIA

Date : Jun 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Anti-Malaria Operations

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on June 28, 1977 on India and Pakistan to carry simultaneous anti-malaria operations in border areas: India and Pakistan have agreed that both the countries will exchange epidemiological information and synchronise their spray operations in border areas. This was decided in a two-day Indo-Pak Malaria Eradication Co-ordination Conference which concluded here today.

The Conference has also recommended that national-level conferences should be held in India and Pakistan alternatively every year, on a regular basis. The next meeting

is proposed to be held at Islamabad Lahore in November, 1977 at a mutually agreed date.

The border meetings will also be held between concerned States of India and Provinces of Pakistan before commencement of spray by the respective countries and also at the end of transmission season at the border of nearest district headquarters alternatively in India and Pakistan to exchange epidemiological information. The first two meetings for the purpose are likely to be held on March 4, 1978 at Wagah Border on the Pakistan side and at Munabao, District Barmer on the Indian side.

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Realising with concern the increase in incidence of malignant malarial infection and emergence of resistant strains of malignant malaria to standard Chloroquine (anti-malaria drug) and its spread to more and more areas of different countries, the conference recommended that Chloroquine sensitivity test be carried out in areas having malignant malarial prevalence on either side of the borders.

Further, the conference recommended that increasing research studies should be undertaken in both the countries and entomological and epidemiological information should be exchanged at the meetings between the two countries. Especially, the epidemiological information may be exchanged through respective Embassies under intimation to the national Governments.

PAKISTAN INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA MALI

Date : Jun 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

The following is the text of a press release on the Indo-P.D.R. Yemen Air Services agreement issued in New Delhi on June 3, 1977:

An air services agreement between the Government of India and the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen was initialled here today.

The agreement authorises Air India to operate one weekly service through Aden to Adis Abbaba, Nairobi, Entebbe and Dar-es-Salaam. Similarly Alyemda Airlines, the airlines of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, will be entitled to operate one weekly service between Aden and Bombay via Bahrain, Doha and Sharjah.

The Indian delegation was led by Shri B. S. Gidwani, Director General of Civil Aviation and the delegation of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen was led by Mr. Hassan Abdo Sobhi, Director General of Civil Aviation, Aden.

The delegation of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen also had talks with the Director General of Civil Aviation of India, the International Airports Authority of India and Air India to strengthen cooperation in the technical field of Civil Aviation including development of airport at Aden and maintenance facilities for their aircraft.

YEMEN INDIA KENYA BAHRAIN QATAR

Date : Jun 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

SAUDI ARABIA

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on June 3, 1977 on Dr. Lakdawala's meeting with Dr. Jalal:

The Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Dr. Lakdawala held informal discussions with Dr. Mahsoun B. Jalal, Director General of Saudi Arabian Fund for Development in New Delhi on June 3, 1977. Discussing the areas of co-operation and identity of interests among the developing countries, Dr. Lakdawala said that third world countries could help each other by extending co-operation in the fields of science and technology and natural resources.

They also discussed the importance of planned change in the economies of these countries.

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SAUDI ARABIA INDIA USA

Date : Jun 01, 1977

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UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Indian and Soviet Union to Exchange Art and Film Festivals

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on June 28, 1977:

Exchange of cultural programmes and art and photographic exhibitions is planned by India and the Soviet Union to mark the 30th anniversary celebrations of India's independence in Moscow and 60th anniver-

sary of the Soviet Socialist Revolution. Details of these programmes were drawn up by Soviet and Indian delegations during their visits to each other's country earlier this year.

The Indian celebrations in Moscow will get off to a start on September 15 with a cultural programme to be presented at the Bolshoi theatre by Sriram Bhartiya Kala Kendra, New Delhi. There will also be dance and music recitals by well-known Indian artistes. An exhibition of 50 miniatures will also be arranged at the Museum of Oriental Arts Moscow. An Indian Film Festival of 10 feature films along with a handicraft exhibition, will form part of the celebrations. One of the highlights will be the popularisation of Indian dishes in Moscow for which four Indian chefs will be flown to the Soviet capital.

The Soviet festival in India will open on the 15th of November for about a fortnight. It will include performances by a folk dance and song ensemble consisting of about 70 members, the Uzbekistan National Puppet Theatre consisting of about 20 members, and a team of instrumentalists. The Soviet Union will also send to India an exhibition displaying the works of Soviet contemporary painters and a photographic exhibition on the Soviet Union.

A Soviet film festival of seven to eight feature films with English sub-titles will also be held, in addition to the art festival.

Besides, the Soviet side will send to India a group of three Soviet poets.

INDIA RUSSIA USA UZBEKISTAN

Date : Jun 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

Termination of Trade Agreement

The following is the text of a press note released in New Delhi on the termination of U.K. India Trade Agreement:

The U.K. India Trade Agreement, 1939, was terminated with effect from February 1, 1973, as a result of U.K.'s entry to the European Economic Community and her need for harmonising her tariffs with that of the Community. The preferences available to India under this agreement are being withdrawn by U.K. in four stages and the complete abolition of preferences will be effective from July 1, 1977.

The Government of India considered the question of preferences extended to U.K. in our tariffs and decided that the preferences extended to U.K. be withdrawn in two stages, i.e. 75% of the margin of preference with effect from July 1, 1976 and 25% with

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effect from July 1, 1977. The trade was informed of the withdrawal of 75% of the margin of preferences by a press note dated May 13, 1976. The remaining 25% of the preference (i.e. the difference between the Most Favoured Nation rate of duty and U.K. preferential rate) will be withdrawn on July 1, 1977.

INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Jun 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

The following is the text of a press release on an agreement for Rs. 4.50 crores British grant to India issued in New Delhi on June 28, 1977:

An agreement for a grant of œ 3 million (Rs. 4.50 crores) was signed in New Delhi today by Mr. C. T. McGurk, Counsellor (Economic and Commercial), British High Commission, New Delhi and Mr. W. S. Tambe, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. The grant will be used for financing rupee expenditure incurred by the Government of India for the provision of facilities in 1000 Primary Health Centres and 325 taluka hospitals for strengthening their Family Planning and Welfare programmes, in rural and semi-rural areas.

By signing this agreement Britain has fulfilled the pledge of œ 3 million for this purpose made at the Aid India Consortium for the financial year 1975-76.

INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Jun 01, 1977

Volume No

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Sub-Commission on Science and Technology

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on June 20, 1977 on the meeting of the Indo-US Sub-commission on Science and Technology:

The Indo-U.S. Sub-Commission on Science and Technology started its deliberations on June 16 in Washington. The U.S. delegation was led by Mrs. Patsy Mink and the Indian delegation by Dr. A. Ramachandran, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology.

Mrs. Patsy Mink said at her opening statement at the Plenary Session of the Sub-Commission that President Carter was deeply interested in promoting science and technology as a means for expanding international cooperation and assisting in developmental objectives. She added that science and technology was now an important component of U.S. foreign policy and the Sub-Commission could count on the fullest U.S. support in achieving the agreed objectives.

Mr. Adolf Dubs, the Deputy Secretary of State, in his speech referred to the important role of the Indo-U.S. Joint Commission in providing an institutionalised framework to promote cooperation while being insulated from the day-to-day fluctuations in bilateral relations. Mr. Dubs said that the recent political developments had added another dimension to the possibilities for expanding cooperation in new agreed areas. He said Indo-U.S. relations were "excellent and there was every sign that they would continue to expand in a positive direction." Science and technology was one area where there were common needs and mutual interests and it

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was specially important to intensify cooperation in this field."

Dr. A. Ramachandran, Secretary, Department of Science and technology, said that Sub-Commission "represents one of notable examples of use of science to promote bilateral relations between two nations dedicated to the ideals of democracy."

In his address at the opening session, Ambassador Kewal Singh said: "At the heart of the development process is the need for a new, mature attitude towards the question

of transfer of science and technology on an international scale. An important dialogue on the ways and means of achieving greater cooperation has already been initiated at the highest level, between the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of India. Against this positive back-drop, and with the kind of political commitment to a close bilateral relationship which is crucial to the success of the Sub-Commission's work, there are naturally expectations on both sides that there will be a forward movement on various projects which have only been discussed in the past but not implemented. He added that "the focus in India was being shifted towards meeting the problems of rural India and of unemployment and hoped that the Sub-Commission would recognise the significance of these new goals in evolving its programme."

USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

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WORLD BANK

World Bank Loan to Bombay High

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on June 4, 1977 on the World Bank Loan of \$ 150 million for Bombay High:

The World Bank is to give financial assistance for the development of Bombay High and Bassein Oil fields.

An Indian delegation has successfully concluded the loan negotiations of \$ 150 million (approximately Rs. 1340 million) from the World Bank for the pipelines project. This is the first time that financial assistance has

been secured from the World Bank for the development of oil industry in the country. An appraisal team of the World Bank had visited India some time back.

The delegation for negotiations with the World Bank in Washington was led by Shri B. B. Vohra, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and had representatives of the Ministry of Finance and the Oil and Natural Gas Commission.

The loan would be utilised for laying two submarine pipelines, one each for transporting oil and gas under the phase III programme of Bombay High. The sub-marine pipelines would cover over 200 kms. each in length between Bombay High and a shore terminal at Uran in Bombay via North Bassein.

The ONGC proposes to establish a crude storage tank farm, a crude stabilisation plant and a gas fractionating plant at Uran. Shore base facilities would be developed at Nhava Sheva also near Bombay for the supply of vessels to dock, for repair of off-shore rigs and other equipment required for storage of materials.

At present crude oil is being transported to the shore by using a single buoy mooring system, a storage tanker of about 87,000 tonnes DWT and an export tanker of a smaller capacity.

The Bombay High oil field is estimated to have an annual production potential of 10

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million tonnes of oil, while the North Bassein has a production potential of nearly 2 million tonnes of crude per annum. The ONGC is producing at present nearly 35,000 barrels of oil per day from Bombay High. It is expected that the production from Bombay High during 1977-78 would be about 2.50 million tonnes.

The development of Bombay High has been planned in five phases and in each phase the annual rate of production would go up by

an additional two million tonnes. Work on the first two phases currently under implementation, is expected to be completed by the end of this year. It includes installation of two well-cum-production platforms, three well platforms, two single buoy mooring systems, a gas flaring system and inter-connecting pipelines.

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Date : Jul 01, 1977

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INDIA AND I. D. A.

Two Credit Agreements with I. D. A.

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on July 2, 1977 with regard to India signing three credit agreements totalling \$ 181 millions:

India signed two credit agreements totalling \$ 31 million with the International Development Authority and one loan agreement for \$ 150 million with the World Bank in Washington on 30th June, 1977. Under the agreement with the I. D.A. \$ 8 million are earmarked for agricultural development for Assam and \$ 23 million to modernise and expand the Periyar Vaigai Irrigation System in Tamil Nadu. The loan agreement with the World Bank is for the development of oil and gas fields near Bombay.

Mr. Ernest Stem, Vice-President of the World Bank who signed on behalf of the I. D.A. and the World Bank said on the occasion that these agreements focussed on agricultural and rural development as well as development of infrastructure. The World Bank loan for the development of Bombay High, he added, was amongst the first few loan agreements concluded by the World Bank in the area of oil and gas development.

Expressing his appreciation of the co-

operation and support extended by the World Bank Group for India, Ambassador Kewal Singh, who signed the agreements on behalf of India, said that in a country like India with a vast rural population it was essential to give particular attention to the development of the agricultural sector. Speaking about the World Bank loan, Ambassador said that this would help to finance the 600 million dollars project for the development of Bombay High which, when completed, would produce 140,000 barrels of oil per day and 2.2 million cubic meters of natural gas daily.

INDIA LATVIA USA

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JAPAN

Speech by Shri Vajpayee at Dinner in Honour of Mr. Hatoyama

The following is the text of the speech made by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, India's Minister for External Affairs, at a dinner in honour of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, in New Delhi on July 19, 1977:

Excellencies, friends, it is with great happiness that I rise today to reiterate a very warm welcome to you, Excellency, on your first visit to India as Foreign Minister and to your delegation.

The contacts between the peoples of our two countries through the great vehicle of Buddhism stretch back in time to the dawn of recorded history. From the sixth century,

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if not earlier, our peoples have together savoured the monumental spiritual heritage with its off-shoots in art, iconography,

literature, logic, metaphysics and sculpture. Indian thinkers like Asvaghosha, Nagarjuna and others have been celebrities in their times, not merely in India, but also in Japan.

Traversing several centuries to a more contemporary period, one could recall vividly that the modernisation of Japan as the first Asian country to master technology and her success in adapting it to conditions of Japan's economic and industrial progress, without abandoning its legacy of ancient culture, gave rise to a feeling of Asian pride. Indeed, it may have been the first inspiration for the modernisation of Asian societies. This growing admiration for Japan also coincided with the period of the awakening of political consciousness within India against its alien ruler.

At a later stage in our history some dedicated leaders of our independence movement, who were abroad, took refuge in Japan and according to their light worked for the freedom of India. Coming to the more recent post-war years, difficult for Japan and the rest of Asia, one may recall that India was the first Asian country to sign a Peace Treaty, in 1952, with Japan. Visible and demonstrable evidence that nothing but friendly feelings prevailed in the fully independent India for the great Japanese people was given, when India insisted on a separate Peace Treaty, which would restore to Japan an honoured place in the international community and when India waived all claims for war reparations. Our eminent jurists held the view that no belligerent had the right to create new norms in international law, based on narrow legal considerations alone. Jurisprudence needed to be infused with human values such as tolerance, co-existence and compassion. These actions were a few examples of India's eagerness to resume ancient ties and give them a contemporary significance.

This brief review of the past would show that both India and Japan shared a strong sense of belonging to the Asian continent. We have both drawn strength from our respective heritage. Although we have inherited different cultures and ways of life, our

people are linked by the sensitivity that we should preserve our ancient heritage even as we modernise.

The world at large may not have correctly anticipated the resilience of the Japanese people who emerged out of the ashes of defeat and unprecedented damage wrought by new terrible weapons of destruction, as the third greatest industrial power today. This reality shows that the Japanese people have a dynamism going beyond the compulsions of post-war political and military alliances. Also, that the Japanese people possess an abundant genius for organisation, which has specially made itself manifest in politics and commerce and in the coordination of scientific and technological knowledge. These virtues, combined with their vision, of beauty in nature and the power of realising it in their daily lives, have made the Japanese people win a new respect and admiration, which is universally shared.

The course of developments in India have, of course, been different. The essence of our policy of non-alignment is that it gives us fuller freedom to promote India's international relations. Since assuming office, the new Government has publicly acknowledged that we seek to improve our relations with all countries. In this era of the irrelevance of ideological crusades, our philosophy of genuine non-alignment comprises the policy of seeking complementarity with nations which have a like-minded approach to international stability. This further means that we would seek beneficial bilateralism with all countries. In the context of the numerous debates in multilateral fora on the bridging of the wide gap between the developed and developing countries, this policy marches side by side with our willingness and capacity to constructively contribute to responsible and enlightened goals of the international community. India will always remain prepared in the broader international context to use her modest influence and capacity towards removing divisions and doubts that contribute to international political and economic tensions, through the process of intensified cooperation with developed countries, such as Japan.

The Indian economy was cynically dismissed a few years ago as a "bread basket" case. I believe, however, that the Indian people too have shown the quality of resi-

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lience, a physical capacity for hardwork and the mental capacity to master science. Both inhuman and material terms, our resources are not meagre. We have also shown the necessary discipline in fighting inflation, which has become a world-wide phenomenon. The scientific, industrial and man-power base have been sufficiently widened to provide a good foundation for further rapid growth in all branches of industry and commerce. Economic objectives, however, in a country such as India, cannot be merely growth-oriented, but to have any impact, we must combine growth with policies aimed at disruptive justice and rectification of social problems. We have to pay attention to improving conditions in the major sector of our economy, namely, agriculture, as the overwhelmingly greater portion of our vast population live in rural areas.

Gratefully we feel that Japan, which has contributed so much to the growth of our economic and industrial infrastructure, fully appreciates our achievements and that she will continue to participate meaningfully in the process of our future growth.

The relations of India and Japan are free from misunderstandings or differences. Our partnership encompasses the fields of trade, credit-financing, co-operation in scientific, agricultural and technological fields and also touch the realm of cultural exchanges. For us in India, Japan is one of our leading partners in trade. However, in the context of Japan's own global trading patterns, it is our endeavour, in terms of mutual benefit, to become a more significant partner. We see no reasons why our bilateral relations cannot be even closer or why we should not better harmonise our attitudes to major questions of international concern. Besides, with a dynamic society such as Japan and a developing India, we should not merely confine our relations to the inter-governmental level. Res-

pective branches of our industry, economy, commerce, science and technology would benefit greatly from higher quality and increasing levels of exchanges. An accelerated development of India's economy should not be seen by Japan in terms of commercial competition abroad. While we have enormous obligations at home, we feel that in the broader interests of political and economic stability, narrowing of the gaps and the spread of international harmony, India and Japan should cooperate even more closely in the bilateral and multilateral fields. I believe we also have a few nascent examples of co-operation between India and Japan in projects of social and economic relevance in third countries in our region.

While there are a few examples of the recognition that India can be a meaningful partner of Japan to the mutual benefit of both, we must aim at multiplying such instances of fruitful co-operation.

I believe that Your Excellency's visit to India is a mirror-image of our own recognition, which I recently voiced in our Parliament, that there is need to further strengthen the contacts, communication and understanding between your country and ours. Although we may have different strategies for economic and political development in keeping with our historical circumstances, the challenge is to take effective action jointly and in co-operation with other like-minded nations, on the significant reality that the international community can survive only on the basis of interdependence, peaceful co-existence and positive cooperation across political and military frontiers. I am convinced that with our background of ancient civilisations, heritage of reflective thinking, reverence for philosophical concepts and adherence to democratic systems, we can together draw-up a meaningful agenda of mutually beneficial co-operation to face the challenges of economic competitiveness in a shrinking world, where resources have to be husbanded, and a feasible approach to the quality of life needs to be evolved. Such friendship and co-operation, moreover, we feel, can be extended to the advantage of people of third countries in this

region whose peace and stability are vital to both India and Japan.

May I now propose a toast to the health, long-life and happiness of the Emperor of Japan, His Majesty Hirohito; to the health and happiness of His Excellency the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Fakuda; to the health and happiness of Your Excellency; to, the health and happiness of the Members of the Japanese delegation; and to the further growth of friendship, understanding and co-operation between the Governments and peoples of Japan and India.

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JAPAN INDIA USA

Date : Jul 01, 1977

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JAPAN

H.E. Mr. Hatoyama's Speech

Replying to the toast, His Excellency Mr. Ichiro Hatoyama said:

It is a great honour and pleasure for me and my party to be given such a delightful dinner this evening and to receive such cordial words of welcome from Your Excellency. We have just arrived in this stately city of New Delhi, and we have already been given a hearty welcome, which I believe is a manifestation of the warm friendship and goodwill of the Government and people of India to our Government and people, and for this, I am deeply grateful.

It has long been my cherished desire to visit your great country. Upon Your Excellency's kind invitation which I have gladly accepted, it has now been realised, and I am

very happy that I am able to observe for myself the steady progress India is making in many fields under the outstanding leadership of her Government.

At the General Elections of last March, the people of this great Republic newly expressed their confidence in your Prime Minister and entrusted him and his government with the task of steering the ship of state of India. Indeed, India, since her independence, has been unswervingly marching forward on the road of nation-building, pursuing the ideal of democracy based on the trust of the people, which my country has also been doing since the end of the last war.

I am always impressed by the words inscribed in your national emblem, "SATYA-MEVA JAYATE", which express the fundamental principle of your country. With such a noble tradition as background, India has displayed, we have recently witnessed a vivid evidence of democracy which created a profound impression among the Japanese people.

In order to accelerate the economic development, your Government has now taken steps in a new direction in consolidating the foundation for further development by attaching more importance to the agricultural sector and small and medium-scale industries. Our country has hitherto extended as much assistance as possible to the development of your economy and industry, however modest it might have been, and hereafter also we would never fail to do our share of contribution to the economic development of India.

Japan has managed to attain her present state of development by overcoming various difficulties, such as the shortage of natural resources, through the determined efforts of the Government and people after the Second World War. It has since been our immutable policy to maintain friendly relations with every country and to contribute to the peace and stability of the world without resorting to military means, faithfully in accordance with our post-war constitution which proclaims Japan is a nation solely dedicated to the cause of peace.

The world of today is beset with many difficulties. The developed countries are faced with inflation and economic slumps and the developing countries with various hardships in their struggle for attaining and increasing their economic resilience. In a world of interdependence, these problems can only be solved through international cooperation and Japan, for her part, is determined to strengthen her efforts toward the solution of these problems both through bilateral and multilateral channels.

I believe that Japan, being an Asian country, should play her primary role in Asia. Her prosperity cannot last without the stability and prosperity of other Asian countries. The same thing can be said of your country. Our two countries stand on a common ground, in that they both follow the ideal of democracy to protect the dignity and freedom of individuals as their basic national principle and that they both aspire to preserve first of all the peace and security of Asia, which is clearly indivisible from that of the world.

From these considerations, I pay my high tribute to India for the diplomatic efforts she is exerting under Your Excellency's leadership for the betterment of mutual relations and the promotion of friendship, centering on the countries of the sub-continent, as well as for the cause of peace and stability in Asia and in the world, as a founder of the nonalignment movement.

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I recall, in this connection, the spirit of the words of your great poet, Tagore "ASIA MUST FIND HER OWN VOICE". These famous words came from him in response to another famous remark, "ASIA IS ONE", which was made at the turn of this century by an eminent thinker of Japan, Okakura Tenshin, who had visited India and came to entertain that concept while associating with your great poet.

I welcome the statement Your Excellency has recently made in the Lok Sabha

in which you referred in particular to India's relations with Japan and clarified your desire to further develop the cooperative relations between our two countries, and I am glad to say that I fully share your desire. There exist many channels of dialogue between India and Japan both at governmental and private levels. We have extensive ties in trade, industry, technical exchange and other various fields. I fully agree with you, however, that there is much room yet for their expansion and deepening. To that end, I believe it is necessary for our two countries mutually to promote the frank exchange of views at all levels and thus steadily to achieve increasing mutual understanding. It would be to my greatest satisfaction, if my present visit to your country should contribute to the furtherance of friendship and understanding and to the development of closer ties between India and Japan.

Finally, may I express again my heartfelt thanks for the sincere welcome and hospitality extended to us by the Government of India.

Excellencies and Gentlemen, may I now ask you to join me in a toast to the health of His Excellency the Minister of External Affairs and to the prosperity of India and to the furtherance of friendly relations between India and Japan.

JAPAN USA INDIA

Date : Jul 01, 1977

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JAPAN

Shri Vajpayee's Statement in Parliament on the Visit of Foreign Minister of Japan

The following is the text of a statement

of the Minister of External Affairs, on the visit of the Foreign Minister of Japan to India from July 19 to 22, 1977, laid on the table of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha in New Delhi on July 28, 1977:

At the invitation of the Foreign Minister of India, His Excellency Mr. Ichiro Hatoyama, the Foreign Minister of Japan, paid a good-will visit to India between July 19 to 22, 1977. He was accompanied by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and other senior officials of the Japanese Foreign Office. It may be recalled that during the debate on the Grants for the Ministry of External Affairs in the Lok Sabha on June 29, the Foreign Minister referred to the need on the part of the new Government to improve contacts and relations with Japan, a fellow Asian country and which has emerged as the third leading economic power in the world. The fact that Mr. Hatoyama visited India, so soon after the new Government assumed office, is therefore significant.

During his visit, Mr. Hatoyama called on the Acting President, the Prime Minister and the acting Speaker and held discussions with some members of our Parliament.

Two rounds of talks were held between the Foreign Ministers of India and Japan and in addition, there was a round of official-level discussions at the level of Secretaries of the Ministry of External Affairs and the Japanese Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. The talks, which were useful, were held in an atmosphere of cordial friendship and understanding and covered a wide variety of subjects of importance to Japan and India in the political and economic fields including the situation in Asia, disarmament the narrowing of the gap between the developed and the developing countries. It was recognised that closer all-round bilateral relations to mutual benefit between India and Japan, who share a common interest in the peace and harmony of Asia and a deeper appreciation of each other's attitudes to major questions of international concern, would be a contribution towards the achievement of stability in Asia.

In keeping with this, it was agreed in principle, that the annual Foreign Office con-

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sultations, would, in future, be raised to the level of the Foreign Ministers of India and Japan. The Foreign Minister of Japan extended an invitation to the Foreign Minister of India which was accepted. The Foreign Minister of Japan also held discussions with the Minister of Commerce, the Minister of Industry, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Steel and Mines. During these meetings, various aspects of closer economic relations between Japan and India were discussed.

During our discussions, the Foreign Minister of Japan raised the question of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons - generally referred to as the NPT. Japan has signed and ratified the NPT and the Japanese Government had from time to time expressed the hope that all countries including India would accede to the NPT. We explained to the Foreign Minister of Japan that our decision not to sign NPT was based on the fact that the NPT was a discriminatory and unequal Treaty in the sense that while it imposed severe constraints on the non-nuclear weapon States, it left the nuclear weapon States free to conduct their activities in the nuclear field without any outside constraints. Our Prime Minister has reiterated our Government's opposition to the Treaty as long as the nuclear weapon powers continue to conduct nuclear weapon tests and pile-up nuclear weapons which we sincerely believe do not contribute to the security of nations or to international peace. It is my belief that the Government of Japan understand and appreciate our position in this regard.

It was agreed that with a view to further promoting industrial cooperation between the two countries a team of experts and officials from India would visit Japan in order to identify areas of further industrial collaboration, to fill up technological gaps in engineering and other industries in India, to explore possibilities of setting up small-scale

industries in the rural areas as also to investigate possibilities of joint collaboration in third countries. It was also agreed that under the framework of technical assistance from Japan, a team of experts would visit India from Japan to advise on possible collaboration in the field of small industries and rural development.

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Date : Jul 01, 1977

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KENYA

Visit of Shri Vajpayee

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi regarding Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's visit to Nairobi:

On his way to Tanzania, the Union Minister for External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the Indian delegation arrived at Nairobi on 27th July, 1977 and left for Dar-es-Salaam the same day.

The new Government of India will continue to cooperate with the Government of Kenya and to maintain cordial relations between the two countries. This assurance was given to Kenya's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Munyua Waiyaki by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Shri Vajpayee had called on Dr. Waiyaki soon after he arrived.

Calling on Dr. Munyua Waiyaki, at his office, the visiting Minister said that there was ample scope for further cooperation between the two countries and India was ready, any time she was called upon, to assist Kenya and to work with the people of Kenya in the interest of improving cultural and economic

cooperation between India and Kenya for the mutual benefit of the people of the two countries.

In reply, Dr. Waiyaki stated that Kenya was also prepared to work with the people and Government of India and thanked the Government of India for the assistance it had rendered to the people of Kenya right from when India became independent. Kenyans appreciate this help, Dr. Waiyaki

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said, adding that since India is more advanced in many fields, Kenyans would continue to ask for more training facilities in Indian institutions of higher learning in order to meet the growing need for better trained personnel.

The two Ministers agreed that in order to further promote trade and cultural cooperation and in order to further enhance political understanding between the two countries, Kenya and India must exchange visits at all levels, both in private and public sectors.

Dr. Waiyaki and Mr. Vajpayee then exchanged views on African and international issues.

Mr. Vajpayee was accompanied to the meeting by the Indian High Commissioner to Kenya, Mr. A.N.D. Haksar and three other officials while Dr. Waiyaki was accompanied by several senior officials of his Ministry.

KENYA INDIA TANZANIA USA

Date : Jul 01, 1977

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NEPAL

Foreign Minister Vajpayee's Banquet Speech

The following is the text of the speech by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, India's Foreign Minister, at a dinner hosted by the Nepalese Foreign Minister, His Excellency Shri K. R. Aryal on July 14, 1977 in Kathmandu:

Excellency, Mrs. Aryal, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I thank you, Excellency, for the very kind words that you have just spoken and also for the sentiments that you have expressed. I would like to thank you, on my own behalf and on behalf of the members of my delegation, for the warmth of the welcome extended to us. We have been touched by the friendliness expressed all round.

Today a long-standing dream stands fulfilled. This is my first visit to Nepal. I regard this visit as a pilgrimage. My heart is filled with devotion as I come to your country. At the same time, I bring the good wishes of the Government of India and the people of India. The democratic will of the people dramatically put this mandate upon me and my colleagues. Since assuming office some three months ago, I have visited some other countries. But those were visits in pursuance of commitments which we inherited relating to international conferences. For my part, I truthfully rejoice that Nepal is the first country which I am able to visit in my own discretion. This choice was mine, but Your Excellency's invitation soon after my taking office made the visit possible.

We considered it a specially happy augury that the first visitors that our new Government received were Their Majesties The King and Queen of Nepal. At the end of the visit, we felt a rapport of understanding had been reached which, I hope, will only be strengthened as time goes by. My visit is a part of this continuing and unending dialogues sharing the determination to strengthen our relations.

Excellency, there is no other country in the entire gamut of our international relationships with whom India has such ancient and deeply intertwined relations as with Nepal. Indeed, there are probably no two countries in the world whose destinies are so interlinked as ours. In the lap of this valley of Kathmandu and under the majestic shadow of the Himalayas, myriad thoughts of our common heritage come before me. Our two peoples are the children of these sacred mountains. According to mythology, these peaks, like some of our own, are the seats of the Gods our people worship. (The King of mountains, God, like Himalaya,

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spanning the wide land from East to Western Sea, stands majestically like the standard of the earth). Where else on arrival in a foreign land, would I go to invoke the Lord's blessings for the burden on my shoulders - except to join in the aarati at the Pashupatinath Temple? Even as an Indian, I feel at home in the independent Kingdom of Nepal. Our two nations are indeed independent, and India has been the first to rejoice in the development of Nepal's role in international affairs. We recognise that Nepal has now an honoured place in the brotherhood of nations and a diversity of international friendships. Here again, in broad perspective of our foreign policies, we have chosen to keep in step with each other. But we are fellow-members of the fraternity of the non-aligned nations. As long as Nepal and India look with awe and respect from the same direction to the Himalayas and as long as the rivers which flow from the snows traverse in the same directions, our destinies will be linked in a special way. If so, many people in Nepal and in India continue to worship the same Gods - be it here at the holy Pashupatinath Temple or on the banks of the Ganga at the Temple of Lord Vishwanath, there will be something unique in the relationship of our countries. If God and geography have linked our two nations, and decreed we live in friendship, any Government which seeks to drive them asunder will do so against the wishes and interests of our two peoples.

Excellency, it is not usual for Foreign Ministers to invoke the blessings of God on an occasion which functionally must be confined to the realms of secular politics. But as you know, India had to suffer the humiliation of being under foreign domination, while Nepal maintained its ancient independence. In fact, contemporary politics and recent developments have brought us closer in our economic purposes and programmes. Both our Governments are engaged in the task of transformation of our countries. To serve these ends, we have and must work in harmony. We must agree and do so without any hesitation that there must be peace, friendship and cooperation amongst us. We have a border across which people can move freely and this is proof of the promise of eternal friendship amongst us. The Himalayas are not only our sentinels. They are also the purveyors of nature's beauty in the shape of their waters and potential wealth which, if harnessed with the aid of modern technology, can transform Nepal and benefit a large part of India to lift our two people from degradation to prosperity. Our rich soil gave us our forests and in turn our fuel. We have a separate and a joint interest that for future generations we husband this soil wealth and protect our common ecology. In every sphere our watchwords must be mutual respect and cooperation for advantage of both nations.

Beginning with His late Majesty King Tribhuvan and continuing under the guidance of His late Majesty King Mahendra, the Governments in Nepal have indeed been aware of these challenges and have set before them the task of economic uplift and transformation of this land. We are aware that His Majesty King Birendra has committed himself afresh to fight and prevail over the forces of backwardness, ignorance and poverty. Nepal now has a network of communications and programme of all-round development. India has considered it a privilege to have been associated in Nepal's development programme. But the scope of our cooperation has just begun. We in India realise that the unfulfilled agenda to bring progress as also dignity to our people is immense and will require decades of sacrifices and determina-

tion. In Nepal this, I am sure, is likewise the case.

There may be divergence in our policies or occasional differences in the process of cooperation. But differences between us are only the proof of our independence. They cannot gainsay our independence. Let no one exaggerate such differences. Let us pledge that we shall seek to narrow them and not accentuate them. What we must never do is to cease to respect each other, nor to take each other for granted. India has declared on so many occasions that it will not interfere in the internal affairs of its neighbours. We can only support or rejoice in any endeavour which is calculated to bring benefit for the economic development by Nepal. But if either Nepal or India lose sensitivity for the enlightened interest of the other, we shall be only giving comfort to those who do not want our countries to preserve our ancient heritage or to prosper together in their quest for the transformation of their societies. Allow me to assure, Your Excellency, that for India's part, and especially of our new Government, the vision of our destiny is to be true to our tradition

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which was never of conquest but of friendship and equality with other nations. We profess no universal ideology. We shall, of course, be vigilant for our national interests and integrity and I am sure the Nepalese understand our concerns and the unexceptionable objectives of foreign policy. With Nepal our experience and our goals are turned to furthering of our friendship. In friendship, we are and must be equals. Given to make sacrifices without demanding equal benefits in return.

My task and the task of anyone in my Office regardless of what party one belongs to must be a determination for understanding and the promotion of mutually beneficial cooperation. I am confident that the true intentions of Nepalese statesmen will be no different. I am equally convinced that history will not forgive us, Indian or Nepalese, If we do not bend every effort with a sense

or urgency to explore the vast dimensions of our cooperative efforts. I am confident that our shared heritage impels us to recognise the inevitability of our shared destiny. I sincerely hope, as one small player in this long history, my visit will be a step in the realisation of this great vision for our nations.

NEPAL INDIA USA

Date : Jul 01, 1977

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NEPAL

India-Nepal Joint Statement

The following is the text of the India-Nepal joint press statement issued on July 16, 1977:

At the invitation of His Excellency Shri Krishna Raj Aryal, His Excellency Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, India's Minister for External Affairs, paid an official goodwill visit to Nepal from 14th to 16th July, 1977.

The Indian Foreign Minister was accompanied by the Foreign Secretary of India Shri J.S. Mehta; Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce Shri A. N. Verma; Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs Shri C.V. Ranganathan; Special Assistant to the Foreign Minister Shri A. Mubayi and Officer on Special Duty (North), Ministry of External Affairs, Shri A.S. Bhasin. The Indian Ambassador in Nepal Shri N. B. Menon also participated in the discussion from the Indian side.

During the discussion the Foreign Minister of Nepal Prof. Aryal was assisted by Shri K. B. Malla, Royal Nepalese Ambas-

sador in India, Shri Bedanand Jha, Royal Nepalese Ambassador-designate to India, Shri U. D. Bhatt, Foreign Secretary, Shri L. L. Sreshtha, Acting Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Shri Kedar Prasad Koirala, Joint Secretary and N.B. Shah, Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The visit is to be seen as a continuing dialogue at the highest levels between His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the Government of India. The Foreign Minister of India reiterated in priority attached by the new Government of India to having beneficial bilateral relations with all of India's neighbours and more particularly with Nepal with whom there are ties in tradition, culture, religion, history, trade and commerce.

His Majesty the King received in audience the Foreign Minister of India. The Foreign Minister of India had an exchange of views with the Prime Minister, Dr. Tulsi Giri. He also paid a courtesy call on the Chairman of the Rastriya Panchayat, Mr. Ram Hari Sharma. Discussions were also held with the Minister of Industry and Commerce, Mr. Pitambar Dhoj Khati.

Official talks between the two delegations led by the Foreign Ministers of India and Nepal, were conducted on two separate occasions. During these talks which were held in an atmosphere of cordiality, mutual trust and confidence which traditionally characterises Indo-Nepal relations, a wide range of matters of mutual interest.

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was discussed. Nepal's proposal concerning Zone of Peace also figured in the discussion.

The Foreign Minister of India reiterated that Indo-Nepal relations were based strictly on the principle of non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

The two delegations discussed the proposal relating to the conclusion of a new Trade and Transit Treaty. The Nepal side made certain proposals in this connection.

The Indian delegation on their part expressed their own views on the subject. It was decided that the questions raised should be examined by both sides carefully in the spirit of the friendly relations between the two countries.

Both sides reviewed the position on agreed on-going projects relating to the harnessing of water resources and noted that much progress had been achieved in these projects. Following discussions on the Devighat Hydro-electric Project, it was agreed that the Indian side would consider the fresh proposals made by the Nepalese side. Both sides agreed that the envisaged steps relating to the Karnali Project should be taken up. They are agreed to take steps to expedite further joint investigations regarding the Pancheshwar Dam Project. They further decided that the joint feasibility studies on the multi-purpose project on the Rapti river would be expedited. It was agreed that ground surveys of the Dolalghat-Dhankuta Road would be undertaken.

The Foreign Minister of India wishes to express his gratitude for the warmth with which he and his party were greeted and lavish hospitality extended by His Majesty's Government. He addressed a specially convened meeting of the Nepal-Bharat Maitri Sangh and prayed at the holy shrine of Lord Pashupatinath.

NEPAL INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Jul 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Shri Vajpayee's Statement in Lok Sabha on His Visit to Nepal

In response to a Calling Attention Notice by Shri Ugrasen Singh in the Lok Sabha on July 26, 1977 the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, made the following statement:

Hon'ble Members are aware of my recent visit to Nepal between July 14 to 16, 1977, at the invitation of His Excellency Prof. Krishna Raj Aryal. Although I had visited other countries as Foreign Minister in pursuance of prior commitments relating to international conferences, I am very happy that Nepal was the first country that I visited, in the bilateral context. This fact reflects our unique relations, which are founded on history, culture, tradition, religion, social and economic ties.

The visit was primarily for the promotion of the existing goodwill between India and Nepal and to continue the practice of dialogue at the highest levels with our new Government, which was so fruitfully started when His Majesty the King of Nepal visited us in early April.

While in Kathmandu, His Majesty the King of Nepal received me in audience. In an atmosphere characterised by trust and confidence, we had an exchange of views ranging over a wide variety of subjects of mutual interest. I also paid a call on the Prime Minister, Dr. Tulsī Giri. During these talks, there was, naturally, interest displayed in developments which took place in India. While I reiterated our commitment to the democratic way of life in India, at the same time I also pointed out that the Government of India would not interfere in the internal affairs of Nepal or, for that matter, of any other country.

Two rounds of talks, with officials of both sides present, were held with the Foreign Minister of Nepal. These conversations, in the friendly and cordial atmosphere so characteristic of Indo-Nepal relations, covered all matters pertaining to these relations. I am confident that the talks resulted in a recognition of the over-riding community of our interests in cementing our friendship and the consolidation of cooperation to our mutual benefit. India and Nepal

have a common interest in the stability of all the countries in the sub-continent and the

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growth of harmonious and cooperative relations between them.

In this spirit, we also discussed Nepalese side's ideas about the Zone of Peace. I recalled to my host that the Janata Government's earnest desire is that the entire sub-continent should be an area of peace and steps are being taken by the new Government to improve relations with all of India's neighbours. As far as Nepal is concerned, I indicated that we would, in keeping with our friendly relations, consider any suggestions from the Government of Nepal with an open mind. I reaffirmed that there is a Treaty of Peace and Friendship between India and Nepal, which has accepted that both countries would live in perpetual peace. This Treaty and our subsequent actions fully reaffirm the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Nepal. I was happy to hear from my counterpart that Nepal would continue to honour this Treaty and other commitments which both our countries have jointly entered into.

The question of a new Treaty on Trade and Transit between India and Nepal, which has been pending since August 1976, came up for discussions at the meetings with my counterpart as well as in a separate meeting with His Excellency Shri Pitamber Dhoj Khati, Minister of Commerce and Industry of His Majesty's Government. Both sides stated their respective positions. Certain proposals were made by the Nepalese side on which we gave our initial reaction and we agreed that careful consideration would be given to each other's points of view. Pending the conclusion of a new Agreement on Trade and Transit, the provisions of the Treaty on Trade and Transit which expired in August, 1976, have been continued. This is proof of the fact that the Government of India is most anxious to avoid any difficulties either in India-Nepal trade or in the transit trade of Nepal with third countries. Our experience shows that this Treaty has

not stood in the way of Nepal's aspirations of diversifying her trade or exploring new markets for her products. Both countries have to take into account each other's legitimate concerns and that transit arrangements should do no harm to either country.

We reviewed various on-going projects between our two countries for utilising the enormous potential of the Himalayan water resources, to the mutual benefit of both our peoples. It was also agreed that the pending joint studies on future projects for the rational utilisation of these resources, which are in the Interest of preserving the ecology as also the promotion of the social and economic growth, of the peoples of both countries, would be taken up expeditiously.

I have reason to be satisfied that although as close neighbours with a long and open border, there will be problems between our two countries, these will be resolved through mutual discussions and to the benefit of both our peoples. The essence of my talks showed that both the countries are keenly looking forward to continuing the multifaceted ties which have a unique character. Both sides felt that the visit has led to a reinforcement of our friendship and a reaffirmation of the desire to further improve our beneficial relations to the advantage of both.

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing MY deep gratitude to His Majesty's Government of Nepal for the warmth of the welcome accorded to me and for the warm hospitality extended to myself and my delegation during our stay in Nepal.

NEPAL INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC TOTO

Date : Jul 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

The following is the text of a press release in New Delhi on July 5, 1977 of a statement by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, in the Lok Sabha regarding the reported taking over of power by army in Pakistan and the arrest of the Prime Minister, Mr. Bhutto:

Now that the point has been raised in the House, I would like to confirm that a

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Pakistan Radio announcement today quoted a statement by a military spokesman issued in Rawalpindi that the Armed Forces of Pakistan took over control of the administration of the country this morning. The spokesman stated that top political leaders belonging to the Pakistan Peoples' Party including former Prime Minister Mr. Bhutto and the PNA leaders have been taken into "temporary protective custody". The spokesman said the situation in Pakistan is normal and peace and tranquillity prevail everywhere.

While naturally we follow events in our neighbouring countries with interest, I would like to reiterate that these developments are an internal affair of Pakistan. India has consistently followed a policy of non-interference in the domestic affairs of other countries. The House is aware that after assuming office, this Government has publicly reaffirmed the policy of seeking good neighbourly relations with all countries in the region so that peace and stability may prevail in the sub-continent.

PAKISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Jul 01, 1977

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TANZANIA

Speech by Tanzanian Foreign Minister at Dinner in Honour of Shri Vajpayee

The following is the text of a press release of a speech made by the Tanzanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Mr. Benjamin Mkapa at a dinner hosted by him in honour of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, on July 27, 1977 in Dar-es-Salaam:

The Tanzanian Minister for Foreign Affairs welcomed Shri Vajpayee as the first Indian Cabinet Minister to visit Tanzania after the recent change in the Government of India. Paying a rich tribute to the Indian democracy, Mr. Mkapa said:

"The recent elections in your country both at the State and National levels have clearly demonstrated to the world that the roots of democracy are deeply rooted in the Indian nation and that the Indian diversity of culture, language, religion and political alliances is not a constraint on a free and democratic choice of the people. I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate on the one hand the Indian people for showing the world the full dimensions of political maturity and on the other hand, the Janata Party for the great trust and honour that the people of India have freely placed in you."

Expressing his sure belief that Shri Vajpayee's visit would "give and add a new impetus towards cementing the already existing strong links of cooperation between our countries and our people in the social, cultural, scientific, economic and diplomatic domains", Mr. Mkapa went on to add, "India and Tanzania realise that real development and freedom for the peoples of the world are impossible while injustices and inequalities dominate international relations and while colonialism and racialism sway over some areas of the world and especially in

Africa".

Mr. Mkapa said that the struggling people of Southern Africa are "fortunate to count India among their supporters". For successive Indian Governments have supported the struggle for African freedom out of commitment to the principles of national freedom and humanity and not in the hope of political or other advantage. Addressing Shri Vajpayee Mr. Mkapa said, "Your recent announcement on the aid earmarked for 1977-78 is a clear demonstration that the Janata Party Government will continue to aid the African Liberation Struggle. In a message you recently read out at the South Africa Freedom Day meeting you said that India had "consistently given political and moral support for the cause of liberation and

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equality in South Africa and has been the first country to apply diplomatic and economic sanctions against South Africa." In fact, India was also the first country to raise the question of racial segregation in the U.N. at the time when many countries in Africa had not yet even dreamed about independence. Mr. Minister, allow me to thank your countrymen for this assistance to the struggling people of Southern Africa."

Praising India's approach to bilateral aid arrangements between the two countries, the Tanzanian Minister said that he could say with assurance that the Indian programmes of assistance to Tanzania are designed to help promote our economic and social development. They are responsive to our own national plan and priorities. The assistance is given to us without political strings, and thus respects the desire of the Government and people of Tanzania to remain genuinely independent."

"With this over-all framework, Indo-Tanzania cooperation has made an invaluable contribution towards the promotion of national development and particularly towards the attainment of our policy of socialism and self-reliance."

Specifically addressing himself to the role of Indian experts in Tanzania (who are now over 800 in number), Mr. Mkapa said that "their devotion and dedication to work, let alone their good cooperation and understanding with our people have demonstrated that they are your ambassadors of goodwill. And I would like to assure you, Mr. Minister, that their commendable services and assistance to our country are very much appreciated by us."

TANZANIA INDIA USA SOUTH AFRICA

Date : Jul 01, 1977

Volume No

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TANZANIA

Reply by Shri Vajpayee

Replying the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee said:

Your Excellency the Foreign Minister, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am most grateful for the very kind and generous sentiments you have expressed about my country and myself. The relations between our countries go back a long way and both geography and history have forged innumerable political, economic, cultural and social links between us. I am, therefore, not at all surprised that you spoke so feelingly about the friendship between India and Tanzania. I would like to reciprocate these sentiments most cordially and assure you that we in India also attach a very special value to our relations with your country.

Tanzania is the first country in Africa which I am privileged to visit after assuming charge as Foreign Minister in the new Gov-

ernment of India. Foreign Policy was not an issue in the historic elections which took place in India last March. There was a broad national Consensus behind our policy of non-alignment, and the element of continuity is particularly strong in our relations with the African countries. We attach great importance to developing closer ties with them and to extending our solidarity and support to the liberation movements which are engaged in a struggle to remove the last blots of colonialism and racialism from the fair face of Africa. Tanzania has played a crucial role in offering sanctuary and support to the liberation movements and I would like to take this opportunity to pay our sincere tribute to President Nyerere personally and to the people of Tanzania for the sacrifices they have made in this noble cause.

The political situation in Southern Africa is in a state of flux. It is our earnest hope that Zimbabwe and Namibia will soon join the comity of nations as sovereign and independent countries. In keeping with the traditions of our freedom struggle, our preference would naturally be for speedy attainment of this objective by peaceful means. We realise, however, that the bizzare antics of the illegal Ian Smith regime in Zimbabwe and the dilatory tactics of South Africa in Namibia seem to make a violent struggle unavoidable. I would like to take this occasion to reiterate our moral, political and material support to the freedom fighters of Zimbabwe as well as Namibia and to wish them speedy success,

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The end of the oppressive regime in South Africa and of the brutal and inhuman policy of Apartheid in that country is also close to our hearts. The Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi had raised historic voice against oppression in South Africa in the early years of this century. The revulsion against Apartheid has since become virtually universal and we have no doubt that the present unjust and inequitable order in South Africa cannot endure and is doomed to fail.

Excellency, the immediate purpose of my visit to Tanzania is the second Session of the Indo-Tanzanian Joint Commission which is due to start its work on the 29th July. This Commission held its first session in New Delhi in January 1976, and I am gratified to notice that considerable progress has been made in the implementation of its recommendations. The rapid development of economic cooperation between our two countries has added a new dimension to our relations and I am confident that our deliberations in the Joint Commission will give further impetus to this cooperation.

There has been a great deal of talk in international fora lately about the importance of economic cooperation among developing countries and the "collective self-reliance" to which it could lead. This subject was discussed at some length in a Conference of the Group of 77 in Mexico City in September, 1976. We regard our developing cooperation with Tanzania as a model of what the developing countries can achieve when a genuine political will to cooperate is there. I can assure, Your Excellency, that we propose to use the opportunity provided by the Joint Commission for exploring future areas of collaboration between our two countries so that our relations may continue to widen and deepen.

Among the factors which have facilitated the development of this cooperation is the instinctive understanding we have of each other's problems and difficulties as also the relevance of the technology we have evolved in India to the needs of fellow developing countries. We hope to build on these foundations in the confidence that this will bring benefit to both our countries and might serve as an example to our brothers in the developing world.

In conclusion, Excellency, may I propose a toast to the health and happiness of Your distinguished Head of state, President Julius Nyerere, who has been guiding the destinies of this country with a clarity of vision and sureness of touch which is an inspiration to us all, to Your Excellency's health, to that of the Minister for Finance and Planning

who is my colleague as Co-Chairman of the Joint Commission, and to lasting friendship between India and Tanzania.

TANZANIA USA INDIA NAMIBIA ZIMBABWE SOUTH AFRICA MEXICO

Date : Jul 01, 1977

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TANZANIA

Meeting with Mr. Nyerere

The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi on July 30, 1977 regarding the Minister of External Affairs Shri Vajpayee's talks with Tanzanian leaders:

The Foreign Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee called on the President of Tanzania His Excellency Nyerere on 29th July in Dar-es-Salaam and had a forty-five minute discussion with him on international affairs, Indo-Tanzanian bilateral relations, Indo-Tanzanian joint economic projects and the latest situation in Southern Africa. Earlier, Shri Vajpayee flew to the Island of Songo-Songo, a place two hundred kilometers South of Dar-es-Salam where a team of Indian experts from the O.N.G.C., after a successful drilling has discovered substantial natural gas deposits. In the evening, His Excellency Mr. Mtei, the Tanzanian Minister of Finance and Planning who is also the Co-Chairman of the Indo-Tanzanian Joint Commission, hosted a reception in honour of Shri Vajpayee.

Shri Vajpayee had a very busy schedule on 28th July and held wide ranging talks with the Tanzanian Ministers for Finance & Planning, Agriculture, Industries, Communications and Transport and Water Energy &

Minerals. All the Ministers expressed warm appreciation of the assistance which India extended in a variety of fields.

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TANZANIA INDIA USA TOTO

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TANZANIA

Joint Commission

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on July So, 1977 on the second session of Indo-Tanzanian Joint Commission for economic, technical and scientific cooperation in Dar-es-Salaam:

The Tanzanian Vice-President His Excellency Mr. Aboud Jumbe formally inaugurated the second Session of Indo-Tanzanian Joint Commission in Dar-es-Salaam on July 29, 1977 in the presence of the two co-Chairman of the Commission, the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the Tanzanian Minister for Finance and Development Planning, His Excellency Mr. E. I. Mtei. A number of other Tanzanian Ministers were present, in particular, the Tanzanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of Industries and the Minister of Health.

In his inaugural remarks, H.E. Mr. Jumbe said he was sure that the "very good relations" already existing between India and Tanzania would be enhanced as a result of the deliberations of the Commission. Cooperation between the two countries would undoubtedly move "to greater heights". India and Tanzania had succeeded in identifying

many areas of cooperation and new links were being forged between the two countries. Since India was more advanced technologically, Tanzania would greatly benefit from her Indian partner, particularly in the field of "transfer of technology". India's contribution to the small-scale industry sector in Tanzania was of outstanding importance. Mr. Jumbe observed that the political will which was necessary to further such cooperation was manifest on both sides. All this made Indo-Tanzanian cooperation "a model of cooperation" between the Third World countries. The other ties that brought India and Tanzania together were the common membership of the non-aligned movement and India's moral, diplomatic and material support to the liberation struggles in Africa. Mr. Jumbe warmly thanked India for this support.

In his reply, Shri Vajpayee said that ties between India and Africa were old but old ties could get rusted if new meaning and dynamism was not imparted to them. It was especially gratifying that the second meeting of the Commission was being held with the discovery of gas in Songo Songo as an auspicious back-drop. This discovery, with which India had been associated, would play its role in the economic transformation of Tanzania. Shri Vajpayee said that India and Tanzania shared common ideals and had to fight a common enemy in the shape of economic under-development. The cooperation between the two countries could serve as an example to other developing countries. While the two countries were engaged in the task of persuading the rich countries to restructure the international economic order, as developing countries they had to work together and, if necessary, show to the developed countries that they could go ahead and make a success of their endeavours despite a lack of cooperation from the latter. Shri Vajpayee ended by saying that the deliberations of the Commission had led to identification of several new areas of cooperation between the two countries and the outlook for the future was promising.

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Date : Jul 01, 1977

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UNITED KINGDOM

Mrs. Judith Hart's Visit

The following is a Press release regarding the visit to India of Mrs. Judith Hart, Britain's Minister for Overseas Development:

Mrs. Judith Hart, MP, Britain's Minister for Overseas Development, arrived in New Delhi on July 13, 1977 on a two-day visit to this country.

Mrs. Hart had two meetings with the Finance Minister, Shri H. M. Patel, in one of which the Deputy Chairman of the Planning

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Commission, Dr. D. T. Lakdawala, participated. She called on the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, and the Minister for External Affairs Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Mrs. Hart had discussions with the Minister for Chemicals, Fertilisers and Petroleum, Shri H. N. Bahuguna; the Minister for Energy, Shri P. Ramachandran; the Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Shri Raj Narain; and the Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, Shri Surjit Singh Barnala.

INDIA USA LATVIA

Date : Jul 01, 1977

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UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Trade Talks

The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi on July 28, 1977 on Indo-Soviet trade talks:

Trade delegations of India and Soviet Union have agreed on the composition of Indian export items to the USSR during 1978-1980 against supply of Soviet crude oil to India. The list includes items like a variety of steel products and non-traditional items like wire ropes, aluminium power cables, wood veneers of tropical wood, organic dyestuffs, detergents, essential oils and instant coffee in addition to some traditional products. Further items will be added to the list as necessary and will be built into the annual trade plans for exports to the USSR for each of the calendar years 1978, 1979 and 1980. The volume of such exports is estimated to be about Rs. 1230 million a year.

The Soviet delegation was led by Mr. P. I. Sakun, Chief of the Main Department for Import of Raw Materials in the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Trade. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Prem Kumar, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce.

The Soviet delegation included experts dealing with the wheat purchases. These experts discussed with the Union Department of Food and the Food Corporation of India technical and logistic questions arising from the Indian proposal to return wheat for the Soviet Wheat loan that they had given to India in 1973-74.

INDIA USA

Date : Jul 01, 1977

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Shri Vajpayee Hosts Lunch for H.E. Mr. Christopher

The following is the text of speech made by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs, at lunch held in honour of His Excellency, Mr. Warren Christopher, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, on July 23, 1977:

Mr. Deputy Secretary of State, honoured visitors and guests,

On behalf of the Government and the people of India, I would like to express our great satisfaction and happiness on your visit to our capital. Having undertaken a strenuous journey round the world, it is indeed gracious of you to have stopped in India to greet us and exchange ideas with us. What is even more significant is that our meeting is the first in India, of the two new Administrations in the USA and in India. We are conscious of your consistent efforts to strengthen Indo-US relations and therefore

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think that your visit is indeed a happy augury.

We truly rejoice in the fact that the relations between our two countries are so open and so clearly inspired by the same ideals. In both countries, we understand and draw our strength from democratic pluralism. We have no need to conceal ourselves from the critical scrutiny of each other. We are secure in the essential conviction that it is democracy which has made us what we are, blemishes notwithstanding.

It is as peoples committed to democratic values that India and USA must assert and upheld the dignity of man. Threats to this dignity are everywhere in poverty ignorance, racialism, power-hunger. Unless we sustain our common commitments to human values, by mutual consultations in trust and mutual assistance in respect, we will fall prey to the erosion of all that we hold basic to the progress of our societies.

Mr. Deputy Secretary of State, I need hardly tell you how India has flattered the United States by our anxieties as by our expectations. The ups and downs of our attitudes were never characterised by indifference. We have had our downs. but we have a definite feeling that our relations are on the upward swing. The new Government is committed to a basic approach of independence of judgement and detachment from blocs which we call non-alignment in the true sense. But with a strength derived from the confidence reposed in us by the people of India, we feel free from fears and free from biases and, above all, we feel free to grasp the hand of friendship whenever it is extended to us.

We believe that the new American Administration has also given up some old tilts and prejudices. In the leadership of President Carter and in the messages he has sent to our Prime Minister, we see a new hand of friendship extended on the basis of shared ideals and faith in our political system. There is no reason why on the basis of dignity and equality we cannot clasp hands of friendship - such friendship does not have to be cemented by a shared sense of adversity or animosity. It should have a positive thread of complementarity and a common purpose to serve the community of nations to which we belong.

We have taken note of the stirring words of President Carter when he spoke at the Notre Dame University about bridging the great divide of the contemporary world between the rich and the poor. We have also noted the initiatives of the United States in lessening tensions through restraint in the sale of arms. in proposing that rivalries in

the Indian Ocean area should be restrained and eliminated, in opposing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, etc. India for its part will be ready to contribute its efforts in these worthy endeavours. I would like to dispel the notion which some people seem to harbour, that India's non-alignment would inhibit such cooperation. On the contrary, the aims of nonalignment will be easier to realise if all powers, great or small, work towards the noble objectives such as those which President Carter has outlined. Equally, we trust that the United States will not look askance at developing countries in their struggle to realise their full potential through their efforts to harness technology and education.

In wishing your delegation a successful tour, I would call on all present to raise a toast to the health of Mr. Warren Christopher, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State.

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PAKISTAN TANZANIA

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BANGLADESH

Talks on Farakka

The following is the text of joint press release issued in Dacca on August 6, 1977 after a nine-day official level talks on Farakka:

The second round of official-level talks between Bangladesh and India on sharing of the Ganges waters at Farakka and augmentation of its dry season flow was held in Dacca from 28th July to 6th August, 1977. The Bangladesh delegation was led by Mr. B. M. Abbas A.T., Adviser to the President on Flood control, Irrigation and Power and the Indian delegation was led by Mr. J. S. Mehta. Foreign Secretary

The talks were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. The different aspects of the question encompassing both long and short term arrangements were gone into exhaustively. The difference between the two delegations in evolving a broad consensus on approaches to the key issues which had remained unresolved at the first round of the official level talks held in New Delhi in May, 1977 were further narrowed down. It was decided to resume the talks in New Delhi next month.

BANGLADESH USA INDIA LATVIA

Date : Aug 01, 1977

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BURMA

Shri Vajpayee's Visit

The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi on August 19, 1977 regarding the visit of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs to Burma:

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs, now on an official visit, to Burma called on U Ne Win, President of the Socialistic Republic of the Union of Burma, in Rangoon on August 18. U San Yu, Burmese Secretary of the Council of State, U Hla Phone, Burmese Minister for Foreign Affairs and Shri N. P. Alexander; Indian Ambassador to Burma were Present on the occasion. The talks which lasted for one and a half hour were very friendly and cordial.

Later, Shri Vajpayee led the Indian team in discussions on bilateral and international relations with U Hla Phone, the

Burmese Foreign Minister, and his senior colleagues.

In the afternoon, Shri Vajpayee called on U Maung Maung Kha, the Prime Minister of Burma. He also visited the Indian Embassy premises and attended a reception held in his Honour by the Indian Ambassador.

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In the evening Shri Vajpayee was the guest of honour at a dinner hosted by U Hla Phone, Burmese Foreign Minister.

VISIT TO MANDALAY

The Minister for External Affairs left Rangoon on August 17, on a day-long trip to Pagan and Mandalay. He was accompanied by the Burmese Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. U Win.

At Pagan, the ancient capital of the country (Burmese Empire) for two and a half centuries, Mr. Vajpayee made a round of historical and religious places like Shwezigon Pagoda, where sacred relics of Buddha are reportedly enshrined.

In Mandalay, the Foreign Minister visited the Jail where India's freedom fighters like Lala Lajpat Rai and Balganga-dhar Tilak were interned by the British regime during the Freedom Movement. Later, Mr. Vajpayee was the guest of honour at a gathering of Indians assembled in the Indian Consulate premises.

The Foreign Minister and party returned to Rangoon the same evening.

BURMA INDIA USA

Date : Aug 01, 1977

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Israeli Action Deplored

The official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs made the statement on regularisation of existing Israeli settlements. The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on August 27, 1977:

In keeping with the Charter of the United Nations, and the basic principles of its own foreign policy, India has always been against acquisition of territory by any country by the use of force. India is thus against continued occupation by Israel of territories that it has occupied since the June 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Moreover, India along with the vast majority of the members of the United Nations has strongly urged that no step should be taken which would further compound and complicate the fulfilment of United Nations Resolutions which include the one passed in December 1976. India, therefore, strongly deplores the action taken to regularize existing Israeli settlements in occupied areas and to authorize new ones. This is not only contrary to international opinion but goes against the efforts being made towards a search for a lasting solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Given the past history of this question, the Government of India cannot but also view with scepticism the claim that only humanitarian considerations have motivated the Government of Israel's decision to extend Israeli public services to Arabs in the West Bank of the Jordan.

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INDIA ISRAEL USA JORDAN

Date : Aug 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

INDONESIA

Continental Shelf Boundary Agreement

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on August 19, 1977 on the ratification by India and Indonesia of the continental shelf boundary agreement:

India and Indonesia have ratified the agreement on the extension of the 1974 continental shelf boundary between the two countries in the Andaman Sea and in the Indian Ocean. The instruments of ratification were exchanged between the Indian Ambassador, Shri B. C. Mishra and the Indonesian Foreign Minister Adam Malik at a ceremony held in Jakarta.

Speaking on the occasion, the Indonesian Foreign Minister, observed that the agreement would further the existing friendly and good neighbourly relations between the two countries and also contribute to the maintenance and promotion of peace and stability in the region.

Reciprocating the sentiments, the Indian Ambassador, Shri B. C. Mishra said that the agreement was of a major significance. He hoped that similar agreements would be concluded by other countries in the region so that there was uninterrupted peace and stability in the area.

INDONESIA INDIA USA MALI

Date : Aug 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Rs. 66 Crore Loan to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on August 19, 1977 on the Rs. 66 crores Japanese loan to India:

Japan will give 20 billion yen (equivalent of Rs. 66 crores) to India as commodity loan for the year 1977-78.

The notes concerning commodity loan were exchanged between His Excellency Mr. Takashi Suzuki, Ambassador of Japan to India, and Mr. R. N. Malhotra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of their respective Governments, here today.

This commodity loan is a part of the 17th Yen credit, the other part of which will go to the project loan.

This loan is extended to India in response to the request made by the Government of India at the Aid India Consortium meeting held in Paris in July, 1977 and with a view to contributing to the economic development of the country.

The commodity loan will be extended by the Overseas Economic Corporation Fund of Japan which is a governmental agency for extending official development assistance to developing countries.

The interest rate of the commodity loan will be 3.5 per cent, and the loan will be repayable over a period of 30 years including a ten year grace period.

The loan will be untied in favour of procurement in developing countries and will be used to cover payments in respect of import of goods and services not only from Japan but also from developing countries.

Machinery and equipment for the Phase III of Bombay High Offshore Development Project will be imported under this commodity loan in addition to the items in the list for the year 1976-77.

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JAPAN INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM FRANCE

Date : Aug 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

JORDAN

Cultural Agreement Ratified

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on August 25, 1977, on the ratification of the Indo-Jordanian cultural agreement:

A cultural agreement signed between India and Jordan last year, came into force today, after the Instruments of Ratification were exchanged here this morning, between Shri P. Sabanayagam, Education Secretary on behalf of the Government of India and H.E. Mr. Zuhair H. Khair, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in India.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Sabanayagam said that India has had old ties with Jordan and the present agreement will help to forge closer bonds of cooperation leading to greater international solidarity and understanding. Mr. Khair said that the agreement was significant in the light of Crown Prince Hussain's visit to India last year and hoped that the Agreement will lead to closer cooperation between the two countries.

The agreement aims at facilitating and

encouraging cooperation in the fields of art and culture, education, science and technology, public health, mass media, education, sports and games and journalism between the two countries to help towards better mutual understanding.

The agreement provides for reciprocal visits of professors and experts for lectures and study tours, exchange of artists, archaeologists, dance and music ensembles, sports teams, exchange of films, documentaries, radio and television programme recordings and participation in each other's international film festivals and award of scholarships to each other's nationals.

The two countries will also examine the conditions under which diplomas, certificates and university degrees awarded in one country can be recognised by the other.

For the fulfilment of the objective of the agreement, it is proposed that a joint Committee may be established for reviewing periodically the working of the Agreement.

JORDAN INDIA USA

Date : Aug 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

NETHERLANDS

Rs. 6.85 Crore Grant

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on August 12, 1977 on the Dutch assistance for the, removal of city-kept cattle (Khatals) of Calcutta and Howrah:

The Government of the Netherlands have extended a grant of Dfl. 19 million

(Rs. 6.85 croress) for the city development and improvement programme of the Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority and the Animal Husbandry Development Programme of the State of West Bengal for execution of the project on the removal of city kept cattle (Khatal) of Calcutta and Howrah. Letters in this regard have been exchanged between H.E. Mr. Tj. A. Meurs, Ambassador of the Netherlands and Dr. Manmohan Singh

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Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs
on behalf of the respective Governments.

The funds made available under this grant are to be utilised by June, 1979. This grant is meant not only for the removal of the 'Khatal' but also for the provision of necessary facilities for the settlement of the cattle such as the land development and infrastructure scheme, provision of cattle sheds and ancillary structure, milk processing and handling equipment etc. The State Government have also drawn up schemes for profitable utilisation of the lands which would become available by the implementation of the 'Khatal' removal programme.

This assistance is over and above the normal frame of assistance extended by the Government of the Netherlands to India for the year 1977-78. Unlike the normal Dutch aid which is generally meant to finance imports of goods and services, this special assistance has been provided to cover local currency expenditure only. In the year 1975-76 also, the Government of the Netherlands had extended a special assistance of Dfl. 11 million (Rs. 3.64 crores) for the implementation of some schemes of the Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority.

INDIA USA THE NETHERLANDS

Date : Aug 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

NIGERIA

World Conference for Action Against Apartheid

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on August 27, 1977 on the world conference for action against apartheid:

Shri Asoka Mehta, leader of the Indian delegation to the world conference for action against apartheid, in Lagos, asked the world community to rise up against apartheid with new strength and urgency.

Following are extracts from Shri Asoka Mehta's statement at the conference on August 24:

We can no longer tolerate claims of conscience being overrun by economic considerations and political calculations of some errant nations. The modern crusade against apartheid must gather new strength and urgency.

Thirtyone years have gone by in the United Nations but the issues remain the same and the stubborn South African regime persists with its policies of discrimination and repression in utter defiance of the world opinion and all canons of civilised conduct. The so-called policy of Bantustans is merely an extension of the policy of apartheid intended to create satellite black areas without any real independence. Thousands of South African freedom fighters have been killed brutally; many more languish in South African jails.

Our hearts go out to those valiant people who have long been victims of discrimination and tyranny and we salute those who fight tyranny.

Our association and sense of kinship with fighters for freedom in South Africa goes back to the last century when Mahatma

Gandhi first landed in South Africa in 1893. India's commitment to the eradication of apartheid and racial discrimination, has been total. India boycotts South Africa diplomatically, commercially, culturally and in sports.

Recently Indian people have demonstrated their unflinching allegiance to human rights and democratic liberties. Many have applauded this epic effort.

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We invite all to join us in our commitment to human rights and democratic freedom in the darkest part of the World - South Africa.

Let partisans of human rights affirm their faith by totally outlawing the South African racist regime - no trade, no investment, no military supplies and no social intercourse with worst violators of human rights.

We believe that ideas can be more powerful than interests. It was Lord Buddha who said "As you think so you become". We have to capture both thoughts of men and their hearts against the monstrous evil of racialism.

The world community is on trial. The challenge before us is whether we should continue to dither and delay while pompously adhering to the principles of racial equality and indulging in double standards or whether we should now take necessary steps that we all know must be taken if a racial conflagration is to be avoided.

Noble intentions are not enough. The success of this Conference will lie to the extent to which our actions keep pace with our intentions. The great Indian freedom fighter Lokmanya Tilak once said "Freedom is my birth right and I shall have it". Most countries in the world today have attained their freedom. But freedom cannot remain partial; it has to be indivisible and universal. We should all make the struggle for freedom in South Africa our very own. To that end

India's commitment has been consistent and firm and will remain so.

NIGER NIGERIA INDIA USA SOUTH AFRICA

Date : Aug 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

NORWAY

Agreement on Fisheries

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on August 16, 1977 on the Indo-Norwegian agreement on fisheries:

An Indo-Norwegian agreement, on Norwegian aid for supply of fisheries equipment spares in India was signed in New Delhi on August 16, 1977.

The agreement was signed by Mr. Per Gulowsen, Ambassador of Norway in India on behalf of his country and Mrs. S. L. Singla, Joint Secretary (Fisheries) on behalf of the Government of India.

The aid earmarked for 1976 and 1977 is 1.00 and 3.00 million Norwegian Kroners respectively. The agreement underlines the procurement procedure of equipment to be followed by the Indian side. These equipments are obtained for various Central Fisheries Institutes Projects Maritime State Governments which are engaged in various exploratory! research and pilot development activities in fisheries. Apart from the above aspects of Norwegian aid, Norway is providing India financial and technical assistance for construction of eight fisheries vessels (Survey & Training) to be used by the Central Institutes under a "Boat Building Programme". Under the programme, two vessels are now being constructed at Goa Shipyard Ltd. Goa

with Norwegian Aid.

Norway had been giving India aid for procurement of fisheries equipments since 1972. The Norwegian aid from 1972-75 for fishery equipment was 3.0, 2.5, 2.0 and 3.4 million Norwegian Kroners respectively. Though Norway had been procuring equipments for India all these years, the responsibility of procuring equipment will hereafter be taken by the Indian side.

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NORWAY INDIA USA

Date : Aug 01, 1977

Volume No

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PAKISTAN

Consular Facilities for Airlines Personnel

The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi on August 31, 1977 regarding consular facilities for airlines personnel of India and Pakistan:

An agreement was signed here today by Shri Jagat Mehta, Foreign Secretary, on behalf of the Government of India and H.E. Syed Fida Hassan, Ambassador of Pakistan in New Delhi, on behalf of the Government of Pakistan providing consular facilities which are to be accorded on a reciprocal basis to the airline personnel of either country visiting the other in connection with the operation of air services between India and Pakistan.

This would facilitate the smooth functioning of the agreement relating to air services which was signed at Rawalpindi on July 16, 1976, in pursuance of the Joint Statement of the Foreign Secretaries of India and

Pakistan of May 14, 1976 which provided for the restoration of all severed links between the two countries.

PAKISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Aug 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

TANZANIA

Statement in Lok Sabha by Foreign Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on August 4, 1977 regarding Shri Vajpayee's visit to Tanzania:

The Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, made the following statement in the Lok Sabha today on his official visit to Tanzania.

I have just returned from an official visit to Tanzania and felt that I should take the first opportunity of reporting to this august House on the results of the visit.

My visit to Tanzania was the first by any Minister of the Janata Government to an African country. It, therefore, provided me with an opportunity for reaffirming our desire to forge closer links - political, economic, cultural, technical and scientific - with our African friends and also for assuring the liberation movements in Southern Africa of our continued solidarity and support.

My visit to Tanzania fell into two parts. During the first, I was the guest of my friend and colleague, Foreign Minister MCPO, and we had two rounds of in-depth discussions on the situation in Zimbabwe, Namibia and

Southern Africa generally. The tense situation in the horn of Africa was also reviewed. I took the occasion to explain to my Tanzanian colleague the recent developments in the Indian sub-continent. We also exchanged views on a number of international issues of mutual interest and the discussions were marked by the traditional warmth and cordiality which have always characterised Indo-Tanzanian relations.

President Julius Nyerere was good enough to receive me on July 29. The meeting could not have taken place at a better

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time as President Nyerere had just returned from a Summit of the frontline President in Lusaka and was preparing to leave on an important mission to Washington. President Nyerere is a statesman of world stature and his intellect, courage, vision and simplicity have won him universal respect. My talk with him was a stimulating experience and gave me fresh insights into the situation in Southern Africa.

Coincidentally, President Nujoma of SWAPO was in Dar-es-Salaam for a brief visit during my stay there. We were able to meet and review the situation in Namibia. He told me about the manoeuvrings which were under way to by-pass the UN in finding a solution to the Namibian problem and of the determination of SWAPO to frustrate these designs. He felt that a Special Session of the UN General Assembly could help in focussing attention on the urgency of the Namibian problem and help in speeding Namibia's march toward independence. We have agreed to support the idea.

Mr. Nujoma expressed appreciation of the moral and material support we have extended to SWAPO and said that he is hoping to visit India later this year. I have told him that he would be most welcome.

While my political discussions in Dar-es-Salaam were timely, rewarding and fruitful, the primary purpose of my visit was the second session of the Indo-Tanzanian Joint

Commission which took place from July 29 to August 2. Vice-President Jumbe did us the honour of inaugurating the Joint Commission and the inaugural session was attended by five Ministers of the Tanzanian Government. This was symbolic of the importance which Tanzania attaches to strengthening her relations with India and I would like to assure the House that we fully reciprocate this desire.

Our cooperation with Tanzania in the economic, scientific and technical fields has grown rapidly and ranges from small and medium scale industries of one end to exploration for oil and gas at the other. About 800 Indian experts are working in Tanzania and our Tanzanian hosts' were generous in expressing their appreciation of the valuable services they are rendering in the development of the Tanzanian economy.

My first visit to the small Indian Ocean island of Songo Songo, about 200 kilometres south-east of Dar-es-Salaam, was particularly memorable. It is on this island that our Oil and Natural Gas Commission has succeeded in locating gas in commercial quantities in cooperation with the Tanzanian Petroleum Development Corporation. The present estimate of the gas reserves in Songo Songo is placed at around 30 billion cubic metres and would be enough to meet a large proportion of the energy requirements of Tanzania. Songo Songo is relatively isolated and the conditions of work on it are by no means easy. Despite these difficulties, however, I found that the morale of our experts there was very high. I would like to take this opportunity to compliment them on the excellence of their work and the role they are playing in cementing Indo-Tanzanian ties.

Plans for the exploitation of the Songo Songo gas are being prepared by the ONGC for consideration by the Tanzanian Government. We shall look forward to intensifying our cooperation with Tanzania in this field and extending it to other related areas such as fertilisers, petrochemicals etc.

Another major industrial project which

India and Tanzania have agreed to implement the Kagera Sugar Plant. This will have a cane crushing capacity of 2,500 tons per day which can be expanded to 3,500 tons per day in the second stage. The import of Indian machinery and equipment for this project will be financed partly out of a Government-to-Government credit and partly out of a credit extended by IDBI SBI. The project is expected to be commissioned in 1980 and will doubtless mark yet another stage in the development of closer relations between India and Tanzania.

The economic cooperation between India and Tanzania is now so extensive that I could mention a number of other projects in which we are collaborating - industrial estates on the mainland and in Zanzibar, a bicycle plant in Dar-es-Salaam, supply of commercial vehicles to Zanzibar and locomotives, wagons and other railway equipment to Tanzania and development of small scale and rural industries.

There were also discussions on a steady supply of raw cashews to India by Tanzania. The Tanzanian authorities have agreed that,

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after meeting the needs of their own processing industry, they would give priority consideration to our requirements in view of our traditional position as the largest market for Tanzanian cashews. Prospects of augmenting production of raw cashews by Indo-Tanzanian collaboration are also being explored.

There has been a great deal of talk lately in various international fora - at non-aligned conferences, in meetings of the Group of 77 and elsewhere - about the development of cooperation amongst developing countries as a step in the direction of collective self-reliance. Indo-Tanzanian cooperation, which is non-ideological and non-exclusive, is a model of what can be achieved when there is a genuine political will to cooperate. I have come back confident about the prospects that lie ahead and have no doubt that our cooperation with Tanzania, and hopefully with other developing coun-

tries, will continue to grow from strength to strength.

May I conclude by expressing my grateful thanks to the Government and people of Tanzania for the warmth of the welcome accorded to us and the courtesy, attention and hospitality which our delegation received throughout its stay in Tanzania.

TANZANIA INDIA USA NAMIBIA ZIMBABWE ZAMBIA TOTO

Date : Aug 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

TANZANIA

Second Session of Joint Commission

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on August 4, 1977 on the Indo-Tanzanian joint commission:

The second session of the Indo-Tanzanian joint Commission for Economic, Technical and Scientific Cooperation concluded with the signing of the agreed minutes by the two Co-Chairmen, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the Tanzanian Minister for Finance and Planning, His Excellency Mr. Edwin Mtei on 2nd August, 1977 in Dar-es-Salaam. The agreed minutes provide for increased co-operation between India and Tanzania in a wide variety of fields such as industry, agriculture, science and technology, civil aviation, prospecting for hydro-carbons, health, etc. It was also decided that the next session of the Joint Economic Commission will take place in New Delhi in the later half of January 1978.

A press conference was held following the signing ceremony at which the Indian

Foreign Minister and the Tanzanian Finance Minister jointly briefed the press about the results of the deliberations between the two delegations during the second session of the Commission. In a brief statement before inviting questions from the press, Shri Vajpayee mentioned that his discussions with President Nyerere, Vice-President Jumbe and other Tanzanian leaders had covered various important international issues and matters of common bilateral interest. The developing situation in Southern Africa and the best means for bringing about a speedy transfer to majority rule in Zimbabwe and Namibia figured prominently in the discussions.

Shri Vajpayee observed that the Commission meeting took place against the auspicious back-drop of the discovery of gas in commercial quantities on the island of Songo Songo by cooperation between the Oil and Natural Gas Commission of India and the Tanzanian Petroleum Development Corporation. The present estimate of reserves of gas is placed at 30 billion cubic metres.

The multi-faceted Indo-Tanzanian Co-operation includes a string of projects on which India and Tanzania are either working together or where exploration of projects is in an advanced stage. These include numerous small-scale industries, a cement project, a bicycle factory, a salt refinery, manufacture of water pumps and farm implements, industrial documentation centre, a spinning mill etc. Around 800 Indian experts are working in Tanzania and the Tanzanian authorities have found their services satisfactory and useful.

Summing up Shri Vajpayee remarked that the rapid growth of India's economic relations with Tanzania is a model of what developing countries can achieve in the direction of collective self-reliance when there was a genuine political will to cooperate.

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TANZANIA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC ZIMBABWE NAMIBIA

Date : Aug 01, 1977

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TANZANIA

International Trade Fair

The following is the text of a press release issued in New, Delhi on August 3, 1977 on. India's participation in Dar-es-Salaam International Trade Fair 1977:

The Dar-es-Salaam International Trade Fair 1977 was inaugurated by the Yugoslav Vice-President visiting Tanzania on August 1, 1977 and the Indian Foreign Minister Shri A. B. Vajpayee visiting Tanzania in connection with the meeting of Indo-Tanzania Joint Economic Commission was invited to attend the ceremony as a special guest. Shri Vajpayee accompanied by the Tanzanian Ministers for Finance & Planning and for Water, Energy & Minerals visited the Indian pavilion. They were received in the traditional Indian style with Arti ceremony by Indian ladies dressed in national costumes from different parts of the country.

The Indian pavilion has on display motor vehicles, air compressors, scooters and pick-up vans, diesel engines, automobile spare parts, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, household items, sanitaryware, fire fighting equipment, a few attractive models of vessels constructed at the Mazagon Docks, and a variety of other Indian products.

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AFGHANISTAN

Banquet in Honour of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on September 4, 1977 on the visit of the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to Afghanistan:

Speaking at a banquet hosted by the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, Mr. Waheed Abdullah, in honour of the Indian Minister for External Affairs, Shri A. B. Vajpayee in Kabul on September 3, the two Ministers highlighted the traditional friendship of the two countries and observed that it had strengthened all the more in recent years.

Welcoming the Indian Foreign Minister, the Afghan Minister Mr. Waheed Abdullah dwelt upon the traditional age-old relationship between the two countries and stated that this relationship had taken a better and more meaningful shape since India achieved independence. These ties got further strengthened during the last four years of the establishment of the Republican regime in Afghanistan.

Appreciating India's assistance and co-operation in the economic, technical, cultural and other fields, the Afghan Minister assured the Indian delegation that Afghanistan attached special importance to her relationship with India.

Referring to his talks earlier during the day with Shri Vajpayee, Mr. Abdullah said that the two delegations had useful exchange of views on bilateral matters and regional and international issues. He reiterated the Afghan faith in the philosophy of non-alignment, which, he said, was attracting a greater number of countries to its fold.

The next meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Non-aligned Bureau will be held in Kabul next year. , This, Mr. Abdullah said, was a symbol of Afghanistan's deep commitment to the philosophy of non-alignment.

AFGHANISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Sep 01, 1977

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AFGHANISTAN

Reply by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Following are extracts from Shri Vajpayee's speech:

Your warm and gracious expression of welcome to me and the friendly references to my country have moved me profoundly. Within the few hours that I have been in your beautiful country, I have been overwhelmed by the numerous gestures of cordiality - tokens of the deep and abiding friendship which exists between the Afghan and Indian peoples. I am also grateful for the characteristically generous hospitality which you and the people of Kabul have extended to me and my delegation. I would like to convey the greetings of the Government and the people of India to the friendly people of Afghanistan, to my distinguished

host H.E. Mr. Abdullah, and to your eminent leader, His Excellency President Mohammad Daoud, a worthy symbol of the indomitable Afghan spirit of independence.

Afghanistan and India have close ethnic and cultural links that go back to the very dawn of civilization. The magnificent statues

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of Lord Buddha at Bamiyan bear eloquent testimony to this fact. Our two peoples have reasons to be proud of this heritage, of a shared civilisation whose values and ideals are reflected in their endeavours in the fields of art, architecture and literature. Earlier in this century, the two peoples were once again drawn to each other, in their common struggle to resist colonial domination. India's independence led to the renewal and further strengthening of these traditional relations between the two peoples, through inter-Governmental cooperation in ever widening fields of activity.

Thus the friendship between India and Afghanistan is not something new. Relations have been always cordial and there existed a close identity of approach between us on various international developments. These relations have grown even warmer with the advent of the Republican regime under the stewardship of H.E. President Daoud.

Excellency, both our countries are today engaged in the struggle to free their peoples from the shackles of poverty and backwardness. We are both trying to give economic content to our political freedom to raise the living standards of our peoples, providing them with the benefits of basic and advanced learning to enable them to share in the scientific and technological advance taking place in the world. We are engaged in this stupendous enterprise. We in India are striving to rekindle our rich cultural heritage, which alone can give meaningful substance and sustenance to the process of modernisation being ushered in. It has been our endeavour to combine what is good in the traditional with what is beneficial in the modern.

We are passing through a most eventful phase in the history of our nation. As you are well aware, we had a peaceful and orderly change of Government in March this year. What had happened has conclusively demonstrated that the democratic process is deeply rooted in our country and the people of India have shown a mature interest in a free and pluralistic society.

While there has been a change in Government, our foreign policy of non-alignment which is based on a national consensus has remained essentially unaffected. We stand for friendship with all nations on a footing of equality and constructive reciprocity. We would like to give special attention to the strengthening of ties and promotion of economic and technical cooperation with non-aligned and other developing countries. We firmly believe that we must give first priority to promoting and strengthening our relations with our immediate neighbours through a process of constant ideology.

Afghanistan and India are members of the non-aligned movement, both subscribe to the concept of peaceful co-existence. It is a token of our commitment to this movement that the last meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Co-ordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Countries was held in New Delhi and the next is scheduled to be held in Kabul in 1978.

There are, fortunately, no problems outstanding between our two countries. We understand and have stood by each other in our moments of crisis. As regards our other neighbours, we have been making sincere efforts to remove areas of tension and to expand the circumstances of positive co-operation wherever it exists. Beneficial bilateralism, blossoming into sub-regional and regional co-operation, promises to be the best vehicle for the upliftment of our masses. Lasting peace in the region can rest only on the foundation of mutual trust and awareness of the identities underlying our individual national endeavours to better the lives of our peoples. The question of peace is of paramount importance if this world of ours is to survive, let alone progress. Peace in

our views is not a mere abstension from war, but a positive approach to international relations leading first to the lessening of the international tensions through attempts to solve problems by negotiation and then to growing cooperation between nations in various ways - cultural, scientific, commercial and through the exchange of ideas, experiences and information.

We have watched with admiration the efforts being made by your country in numerous fields of developmental activity. The progress achieved is much in evidence everywhere. Under President Daoud's benevolent and farsighted leadership, Afghanistan is accelerating the pace of its economic development and taking steps to usher in an era of hope for the people. We assure you that India will always be with you in this struggle

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and will willingly extend its hand of friendship in whatever manner or activity you would choose to seek our assistance. I take this opportunity to state that the Janata Government in India is deeply committed to the cause of Indo-Afghan friendship and shall do every-thing possible to promote it in different directions.

I am happy today to be in this city known for its fruits and friendship. I am grateful to Your Excellency for making this possible for me.

AFGHANISTAN USA INDIA

Date : Sep 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

AFGHANISTAN

Indo-Afghan Joint Communique

Following is the text of the joint communique issued On September 6, 1977 at the conclusion of the visit of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs, to Afghanistan:

At the invitation of the Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, Mr. Waheed Abdullah, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India, paid an official and friendly visit to Afghanistan from September 3 to September 6, 1977. The Minister of External Affairs was accompanied by Mr. J. S. Mehta, Foreign Secretary, Dr. I. P. Singh and Mr. R. K. Jerath, Joint Secretaries in the Ministry of External Affairs.

The Minister of External Affairs was accorded a very warm and cordial welcome by the Government of Afghanistan reflecting the age-old ties of friendship between the two countries and the earnest desire of the two peoples to consolidate and enlarge the areas of cooperation between them.

The Minister of External Affairs had an audience with the President of the Republic of Afghanistan, His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Daoud. He visited places of economic and cultural interest, including the renowned archaeological site of Bamiyan where work of restoration and preservation of the colossal Buddha images has been completed by an Indian archaeological team. A formal ceremony was held to mark the completion of the assignment by the Indian team, in which Mr. Abdul Naveen, Minister of Information and Culture of Afghanistan and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee were present.

The Minister of External Affairs held extensive discussions with the Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Waheed Abdullah. The Minister of External Affairs was assisted by Mr. J. S. Mehta, Foreign Secretary, H.E. Mr. S. K. Singh, Ambassador of India in Kabul, Dr. I. P. Singh and Mr. R. K. Jerath, Joint Secretaries in the Ministry of External Affairs. The Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs was assisted by Mr. Abdul Samad Ghaus, Deputy Foreign Minis-

ter, Mrs. Mahboob Rafiq, Chief of the Office of Foreign Minister, Mr. Mohammad Gul Jahangiri, Director of First Political Department and Mr. Mohammad Mirza Samah, Director of International Economic and Financial Relations. These discussions covered issues of international importance and bilateral cooperation. The discussions revealed an identity of views on various subjects reflecting the deep understanding which has existed between the two countries and their leaders.

The two sides reiterated their adherence to the United Nations Charter and their belief in the principles of peaceful means of solving international disputes, refraining from the use of force and threat to use of force between states and mutual respect on the basis of sovereignty, equality and non-interference as fundamental to the proper conduct of relations between states.

The Minister of External Affairs of India and the Minister in Charge of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan stressed the abiding validity of the policy of nonalignment and its role in promoting understanding among nations as recently reiterated at the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Coordination Bureau of Non-aligned countries in New Delhi in April 1977. Both sides expressed the hope that discussions on the issues which were deliberated upon during the meeting of the Coordination Bureau in New Delhi will continue in the forthcoming meeting of the Bureau in Kabul and would lead to concrete discussions so as to pave the way for a successful meeting of Foreign Ministers of Non-aligned countries in Belgrade next year. The

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two sides agreed that mutually beneficial technical and economic cooperation amongst the non-aligned states should be promoted with greater vigour.

Both sides recognised that promotion of trust and beneficial cooperation between the countries in South Asia would reinforce the search for peace and stability in the entire area.

The two sides expressed serious concern at the situation in the Middle East. They came out resolutely in favour of a just settlement of this problem based on the total withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied territory and the legitimate rights of peoples of Palestine including the right to establish their own state. While expressing the hope that efforts aimed at reconvening the Geneva peace conference would succeed, the two sides deplored that Israel continued to flout U.N. resolutions, the latest example of this being the illegal decisions of Israel to create three new Jewish settlements on the occupied West Bank.

The two sides reaffirmed their solidarity with the people of Southern Africa who are struggling for their rights against racialism colonialism and exploitation. They pledged their full support to the people of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa in their struggle.

They called upon the international community to work earnestly for general and complete disarmament including elimination of nuclear weapons.

The two sides urged the major powers and the maritime users fully to cooperate with the littoral and hinterland states in achieving the objective of the establishment of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

Both sides discussed the agenda of the 32nd session of General Assembly and noted the similarity of their views on major issues therein.

The two sides reviewed the international economic situation as it directly affected the developing countries. They called on the developed countries to base their economic relations with developing countries on an equitable and just basis. They urged that the international community should also adopt urgent measures to enable the most seriously affected developing countries to overcome their present difficulties and sustain the momentum of their development. Both sides expressed the hope that the resumed 31st session of the U.N. General Assembly, while considering the results of

the Conference on International Cooperation held in Paris, will be able to reach decisions leading to the speedy establishment of a new economic order, so as to bridge the gap between the industrialised and the developing countries which, if allowed to continue, would jeopardise the prospects of peace in the world.

The Minister of External Affairs of India held talks with their Excellencies Mr. Mohammad Khan Jalalar, Minister of Commerce, Mr. Abdul Tawab Assifi, Minister of Mines and Industries, Mr. Ali Ahmad Khurram, Minister of Planning, Dr. Abdullah Omar, Minister of Public Health and Mr. Juma Mohammad Mohammadi, Minister of Power and Water. The two sides reviewed the progress of economic, technical and commercial cooperation between the two countries and noted with satisfaction that considerable progress had been made in these fields. They resolved to strengthen and widen the areas of bilateral cooperation between their two countries.

All these talks were held in an atmosphere of friendship and sincerity reflecting the close and historical relations between Afghanistan and India.

The two sides agreed to continue close contacts at different levels in order to exchange views so as to strengthen further their close relationship and to expand their cooperation in all fields.

The Minister of External Affairs of India expressed his sincere gratitude to the Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan for the very warm hospitality extended to him and members of his party by the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan. He extended an invitation to the Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan to visit India which was accepted with thanks.

The Minister for External Affairs extended invitation from the President and the Prime Minister of India to His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Daoud, President of Afghanistan, to visit India at his convenience. This

invitation was accepted with pleasure.

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AFGHANISTAN USA INDIA YUGOSLAVIA ISRAEL SWITZERLAND ZIMBABWE NAMIBIA SOUTH AFRICA FRANCE

Date : Sep 01, 1977

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ALGERIA

Bilateral Talks to Expand Co-operation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on September 23, 1977 on India-Algeria bilateral talks:

An added emphasis on measures to expand and strengthen India-Algeria cooperation marked the bilateral talks held in Algiers recently between the representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs and the Algerian Foreign Ministry- The talks also covered various international issues including matters concerning the non-aligned movement and items likely to come up in the forthcoming session of the UN General Assembly.

It was decided that regular contacts should continue between the senior official of the two Foreign Ministries.

The Indian delegation was led by Shri M. A. Vellodi, Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

ALGERIA INDIA USA

Date : Sep 01, 1977

Volume No

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BANGLADESH

Sharing of Ganga Waters at Farakka

The following is the text of a joint press release issued in New Delhi on September 30, 1977 on the sharing of Ganga water between India and Bangladesh:

The third round of official level talks between Bangladesh and India on the sharing of the Ganges waters at Farakka and augmentation of its dry season flow was held in New Delhi from September 20 to 30, 1977.

The Bangladesh delegation was led by Mr. B. M. Abbas A.T., Adviser to the President on Flood Control, Irrigation and Power and the Indian delegation was led by Shri J. S. Mehta, Foreign Secretary.

The talks were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

The leaders of the two delegations have reached an agreement following on the understanding reached in Dacca in April 1977. The agreement contains interim arrangements for sharing of the Ganges waters at Farakka as well as for finding solution to the long-term problem of augmenting its flow.

The agreement was initialled by the leaders of the two delegations in New Delhi on September 30, 1977.

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Date : Sep 01, 1977

Volume No

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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Assistance to Set up Tool Room

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on September 1, 1977 on the West German assistance in setting up tool room in Ludhiana:

The Federal Republic of Germany will assist India in setting up a tool room at Ludhiana in Punjab. An arrangement between the two Governments has been finalised by exchange of notes.

The main purpose of the project is to increase the efficiency of small enterprises in light engineering and allied fields by providing support in the area of design and production of tools, jigs and fixtures and create better job opportunities and improve the skills of the personnel employed by the industry. The tool room will provide technical advice, consultancy, design assistance, advisory services on standardisation of components, raw-materials and training in short-term, part-time and long-term courses in the field of toolings.

The total project cost is estimated to be about Rs. 4 crores out of which the State Government of Punjab will contribute nearly Rs. 60 lakhs by way of land and building. The Government of West Germany will provide machinery and equipment, both imported and indigenous, and raw materials valued at a total sum of DM 3,880,000 (nearly Rs. 140 lakhs) and meet the expenses of seven experts for an average period of four years stay in the country. The rest of the expenses on the central project like staff salaries, maintenance and running of the tool room will be met by the Government of India as grant-in-aid to the Society to be registered

for the purpose.

The tool room will be of immense help and meet the much needed requirements of small scale and other units of the State of Punjab in particular and other nearby units by way of training of personnels and common facilities as well as supply of toolings.

The project is expected to be in operation in the beginning of 1979.

GERMANY INDIA USA

Date : Sep 01, 1977

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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Sixth Round of Consultations

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on September 15, 1977 on the consultations held between India and the Federal Republic of Germany in Bonn:

India and the Federal Republic of Germany have reaffirmed their desire for still closer cooperation to mutual benefit as well as to serving the larger interests of peace and stability.

This underlined the sixth round of political consultations between representatives of the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of External Affairs of India held in Bonn during last week.

The German delegation was led by the Secretary of State, Mr. Guenther Van Well, and the Indian delegation by the Foreign Secretary, Shri J. S. Mehta.

The two delegations discussed the entire range of Indo-German relations as well as international topics of mutual interest. In particular, they reviewed the development of relations between the two countries in the economic field as well as in the areas of science and technology. Each side outlined the situation in its respective region emphasising the efforts made to promote greater understanding and cooperation.

The discussion on international scene covered in particular detente, disarmament, the north-south dialogue and other questions

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connected with the forthcoming UN General Assembly Session.

During his stay in Bonn, the Foreign Secretary, Shri Mehta, called on the President of the Bundestag, Prof. Carlsten and the Foreign Minister, Mr. Genscher.

The next round of consultations will be held in New Delhi.

GERMANY INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Sep 01, 1977

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GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Indo-GDR Joint Commission

The following is the text of speech made by Shri George Fernandes, Minister of Industry and the Co-Chairman of the Commission for India on September 26, 1977 at the plenary meeting of the Second Session of the Indo-GDR Joint Commission for

Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, held in New Delhi:

It gives me great pleasure to extend a most cordial welcome to Dr. Gerhard Weiss, Deputy Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic and the members of his delegation who have come to India for the second Session of the Indo-GDR Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation. The distinction and, therefore, the greater responsibility of being the new-Co-Chairman of this Commission have been placed on both of us. It would be our endeavour to give a greater impetus to the growth of friendly ties between India and the German Democratic Republic.

The traditional ties between the two countries were manifested since over a century ago by a most enlightened appreciation of Sanskrit and Indian culture. It has continued since our Independence in diversified fields relating to industry, agriculture, science and technology and is sustained by mutual appreciation of the national policies and objectives of the peoples of both the countries.

The progress of economic cooperation since the first Session of the Commission in Berlin in June 1975 is most encouraging. There is a substantial increase in the trade turnover which reached a high figure of Rs. 653 million in 1976. The long-term trade plan for 1977-1980 between the two countries envisages exports from India to the extent of Rs. 1847 million and imports from GDR to the extent of Rs. 1675 million. What is heartening in these trends is a change in composition during the last two years in favour of non-traditional exports from India to GDR. The percentage of such non-traditional exports like engineering goods has gone up from about 30 per cent to over 50 per cent during the last two years.

The agenda for our discussions covers industrial cooperation, trade exchanges and shipping, and cooperation in agriculture and science and technology. Working groups consisting of experts from both the sides, involving several ministries and organi-

sations, have been engaged in detailed discussions since the last week. I am confident they will fulfil our expectations in identifying projects which will prove to be of mutual benefit to both the countries. I would particularly urge that the implementation aspects may also be gone into so that an achievable time-frame is set for the completion and commissioning of these projects.

The projects identified would doubtless have to be in the context of the national priorities. The modalities of implementation will have to be spelled in terms of how best we could utilise the technologies and industrial capacities of both the countries and the precious asset of our man-power in achieving these priorities. In so far as India is concerned, we are committed to the development of agriculture, the rural sector and industries which could promote employment and pro-

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vide maximum utilisation of our resources. in this difficult work, I Am confident we have every support from the German Democratic Republic. GDR has developed expertise and technology in agriculture, mining industry. science and technology. In India collaboration from GDR organisations has been significant in respect of machine tools, office equipment, manufacture of films, instrumentation. textile and printing machinery. Our mica provides the base for a wide range of electrical products manufactured in GDR. In the area relating to manufacture of films, we continue to receive valuable assistance from GDR. In the sphere of industrial cooperation, we could avail of technical assistance from GDR in improving our agricultural yields, modernisation of our textile plants, manufacture of dairy machinery, micanite and mica paper and improvement in the production of ophthalmic glass. I would particularly like to refer to the development of mica-based industries which would help in the promotion of employment in the mica-producing areas of the Eastern region. Another important project relates to the setting up of a food processing project in the North Eastern region which will help to utilise the horticultural products of Assam as

well as of the neighbouring States and Union Territories. The essential advantage of this project would be the production of concentrates which will reduce the incidence of transport costs in a region where such costs are unduly high and a ready export market which would help in promotion of agricultural development and employment in an important region of India.

In the technology sector, there is scope for fruitful cooperation between the two countries in the utilisation of petroleum by-products, nutritional science and areas relating to semi-conductors, plasma physics and development of gear-cutting machines.

The protocol on scientific and technical cooperation has come to an end. I hope that during this session a new programme of cooperation would be finalised with reference to priority areas. It would be relevant to consider for inclusion in this programme the development of optical glass, the manufacture of machine tools which would be suitable for the small-scale and rural sectors of industry and low-cost industrial housing.

The elements of cooperation which are essentially harmony, reciprocity and complementarity, are, I am glad to say, becoming manifest in our relations. It is significant that in the Leipzig Spring Trade Fair in March, 1977, the Indian pavilion was amongst the most popular and was able to secure orders of over Rs. 5 crores on the opening day itself, which comprised substantial purchase of Indian engineering products, including heavy engineering items. At the Fair, an Indian firm received a gold medal for its mango juice products. We have, at present, in our trade turnover with GDR a surplus which could be used gainfully for promoting technical cooperation and for importing requirements that fit in with our priorities. Among these would be the purchase of cargo ships, muriate of potash, photo films, caprolactum, and specialised agricultural machinery. On the GDR side, I am confident there would be further endeavours in respect of imports of finished leather, textiles, machine tools, textile machinery and other engineering goods

which have found a growing market in GDR.

Another important area which will require attention during this session is co-operation for implementation of projects in third countries. The potential of such co-operation requires to be tapped in a more positive manner. Recently, India has been able to secure large-value engineering contacts and turn-key projects in several countries abroad. Several of these are being implemented in cooperation with friendly countries. Indo-GDR economic cooperation could serve as a model for effecting such third country cooperation. The organisations on both the sides could team up by joining their complementarities in expertise, technology, technical services, consultancy, supervision and labour for implementation of appropriate projects abroad.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate our assurance to the Deputy Prime Minister of GDR and the members of his delegation of unstinted cooperation. We have been apprised of the trends of discussions of the working groups constituted by the Commission and I would like to record my appreciation of the positive approach of the GDR delegation in working with us towards identification and implementation of specific

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action-oriented projects. I am confident that in this spirit of constructive and friendly co-operation, the deliberations of this second session of the Commission will serve to strengthen the close ties between India and the German Democratic Republic.

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Date : Sep 01, 1977

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Speech by Dr. Gerhard Weiss

The following is the text of speech of
Dr. Gerhard Weiss:

I am really very glad to have been entrusted by my Government with the very responsible function of Co-Chairman of the Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation for GDR/India and to stay once again after so many years in Your great country on the occasion of the second session Of the Joint Economic Commission.

The GDR has always attached great importance to the continuous development of good relations between our two countries and I am convinced that the joint deliberations at this session will make an important contribution towards steadily continuing, extending and enlarging the relations between the German Democratic Republic and the Republic of India in the field of economic, scientific and technical cooperation.

We can note that the fields selected for developing economic cooperation at the first session of the Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation for GDR/India which was held in Berlin in June 1975 have brought multifarious mutual activities and results. To fulfil the stipulations of the first session, delegations of GDR working groups of the Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation as well as experts of foreign trade and export enterprises of the German Democratic Republic have visited your great country.

From your country too, many delegations and prominent representatives of Government, industry, commerce, agriculture, science and technology have been staying for this purpose in our country.

We are pleased that through joint efforts in many fields important results or Partial results were achieved to the benefit

and advantage of developing the economies of the Republic of India and the GDR. We can say with full justification that we have made good progress.

On this occasion I should like to express my thanks and appreciation to all those having contributed to these achievements.

The GDR Government holds the view that all possibilities of developing economic relations to mutual advantage have not been exhausted yet, and that speed and extent in the development of economic cooperation can still be increased. On the part of the German Democratic Republic there is full readiness for this, with a view to achieving a considerable increase in the mutual exchange of goods in the years up to 1980 and thereafter.

Proceeding from the grown and steadily increasing capacities of the national economies of our two countries and the will of our governments to continue the traditionally good cooperation, the deliberations of the second session of the Joint Economic Commission will contribute towards opening up new forms and areas of economic and industrial cooperation.

I wish that the deliberations will take a good and successful course.

Before concluding I should like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the extremely cordial and friendly reception accorded by you and your dear colleagues to me and the members of my delegation.

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Indo-GDR Agreement on Bilateral Cooperation

The following is the text of a press release issued on September 28, 1977 on the Indo-GDR Cooperation agreement signed at the conclusion of Indo-GDR Joint Commission talks in New Delhi:

Further areas of cooperation between India and the German Democratic Republic, in respect of textile and printing machinery, agricultural equipment, machine tools, milk processing equipment, open cast mining equipment, electronics and manufacture of cross-linked polythelene cables were identified at the three-day second session of the Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation concluded here today with the signing of a joint protocol.

The GDR delegation was headed by Dr. Weiss, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Chairman of the GDR side in the Commission, and the delegation of the Republic of India by Shri George Fernandes, Minister of Industry and Chairman of the Indian side in the Commission. Dr. Weiss was accompanied by Mr. Friedmar Clausnitzer, Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade, and Mr. Rudolf Mueller, Deputy Minister of Science and Technology.

The Joint Commission also identified priority projects in India for cooperation between the two countries such as the setting up of a mica paper and micanite plant in Bihar, the manufacture of ophthalmic blanks by the continuous process technology at the Durgapur factory of Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd., and the setting up of the export-oriented food processing project in the North Eastern region. Fields of cooperation identified in the protocol on Science & Technology relate to several priority fields including building sciences, especially industrial housing, development and production of refractory materials, development and production of optical glass, and development and appli-

cation of machine tools, especially gear technology.

Cooperation between the two countries for implementation of third country projects was also discussed and considerable progress was made in identifying specific projects relating to machine tools, textile mills and establishment of soft drinks and beverage plants. The framework of collaboration arrangements between GDR and Indian organisations for third country projects was also settled.

The deliberations centred on issues of further deepening economic, scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries. The Commission assessed the fulfilment of the stipulations of the first Session and agreed on measures for expanding and diversifying trade and economic relations, especially in the fields of mechanical engineering, electrical engineering\electronics and chemistry as well as cooperation in third markets.

At the same time, a supplementary protocol was concluded on scientific and technical cooperation in the field of agriculture, forestry and food economy for 1977 and 1978, and a joint programme for cooperation between the Ministry of Science and Technology of the GDR and the Department of Science and Technology of the Government of India was agreed upon for the period upto 1979.

The second Session of the Joint Commission reviewed the progress in the development of economic relations between the two countries and noted with satisfaction the appreciable progress effected as shown in the substantial turnover of trade between the two countries. It was further observed with satisfaction that the composition of Indian exports to GDR is showing a welcome trend towards non-traditional items including engineering goods and the growth in the exports of such non-traditional items has shown a substantial increase especially during the last two years.

Among the several projects of Indo-GDR collaboration which had made substantial

progress in India, the important ones related to the manufacturing collaboration between the Indian Dairy Corporation and a GDR Organisation in respect of dairy machinery and in the supply of material and technical assistance to M/s Hindustan Photo Film for manufacture of films.

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Positive steps for implementation of the long-term trade plan (1977-1980) between India and GDR were discussed.

Dr. Gerhard Weiss, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers, called on Shri Morarji Desai, Prime Minister of India. Dr. Weiss conveyed the most cordial greetings and good wishes from the leadership of the Party and the Government of the GDR, which were reciprocated most cordially by Shri Morarji Desai. They concurrently expressed interest in continuously developing the traditionally friendly relations between the two countries and in increasingly utilizing the possibilities of mutually beneficial economic, scientific and technical cooperation. Dr. G. Weiss also informed India's Prime Minister and other Ministers of the Indian Government on the positive results of the GDR's internal and external policies, especially of its economy.

Dr. G. Weiss had further talks with Shri Mohan Dharia, Minister of Commerce, and Shri S. S. Barnala, Minister of Agriculture, on matters of developing and implementing economic cooperations, in the fields of trade, agriculture and fisheries in the period from 1977 to 1980.

Measures for sustained follow-up of the conclusions and recommendations of the second Session were discussed and time-schedules laid down for implementation. It was agreed that there would be close collaboration between the concerned organisations and Ministries of both the sides for the timely implementation of the projects.

The third Session of the Joint Commission will be held at Berlin in 1978 on a date to be fixed after mutual consultations.

India and GDR today signed a programme of co-operation in the fields of science and technology. Dr. A. Ramachandran, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology signed the programme on behalf of Government of India and Mr. Rudolf Mueller, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology, signed on behalf of GDR.

This programme was signed in the concluding plenary session of the Joint Commission.

The joint programme identified the areas of machine tool technology with special reference to gear Cutting machines, optical glass technology and building sciences for co-operation between the two countries on the basis of mutual relevance and benefit. The agreed minutes of the working group on science and technology set up by the Joint Commission were also signed today.

The Indian and GDR sides agreed upon a series of measures to be taken for the effective implementation of the agreements between the two countries. The two countries will exchange high level experts to work out the detailed action programmes. The exchange of scientific literature will also be encouraged.

It was also agreed that scientific and technological relations between India and GDR should be intensified and that newer areas such as electron microscopy, liquid crystals etc. should be examined for future co-operation

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Date : Sep 01, 1977

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HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi of the, address to the Council for Foreign Relations in New York on September 30, 1977 on 'the Democratic and Social Revolution in India and Foreign Policy', by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee:

It is a matter of great satisfaction to me to meet you here today and to have this

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opportunity to share some of my thoughts with you. Only a short while ago, one was not quite sure if such an encounter would be possible at all. The support and sympathy of friends from all over the world, including scores of them in this great country of yours, sustained the thought that one day one would be able to meet to convey our deep sense of gratitude and appreciation we in India felt towards you.

Even in the darkest hours, when many thought that all was lost, that the long night of suffering and despair would never end, some of us did not abandon the hope that ultimately truth shall prevail and the flame of freedom will not be extinguished.

It was a long night indeed to most of us in India. And yet, in the wide span of history, it was perhaps a fleeting moment of aberration, a transient twist in the fortunes of the nation, a distortion that was better not remembered. But even if it were possible to consign it to the dustbins of history, the saga of courage of the people of India, who rose against tyranny and put an end to the country's nightmare, cannot be easily forgotten.

There has been in India a resurgence of a depth and intensity comparable to the political and social awakening that the arrival of Lokmanya Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi brought to the country at the beginning of this century. Never before, since we

attained independence, have the people been so intimately and passionately involved with the electoral process. Never before had we witnessed such popular enthusiasm in what people in large parts of our country thought to be their only chance to save their democratic rights.

What was it that generated this fervour and inspired the common people and the intellectuals in a crusade against arbitrariness and repression, falsehood and deceit? Certainly not material gains.

Many years ago Jefferson declared: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

It was the theory, during the period of distortion in my country, that life was a commodity that could be dispensed with in the larger interest of the nation. It was the theory that a revolution was on to rescue the country from the dark forces of disruption and destabilisation and that, to paraphrase a famous dictator, "this revolution was incapable of either burying or mourning its dead." In the name of this pernicious doctrine, the citizen of India was deprived of his simple Right to Life and Liberty. In the name of this doctrine was set aside one of the most sacred achievements of human civilisation, the right of habeas corpus.

To perpetrate this deceit upon the masses, a radiant face was sought to be put on it. It was argued that deprivation of such a right was essential for the nation's progress, to conserve its foreign exchange reserves and preserve the gains since independence. One monstrous lie was piled upon another. An atmosphere of fear was deliberately created and terror let loose to intimidate and silence.

Individual liberty and human dignity became dirty words. Political freedom and economic choice were denounced as reactionary and licentious. Even despots and dictators like the word 'freedom', but their first tendency is to expropriate it for them-

selves and then to perpetuate the expropriation. The dominance of Government was persistently intensified to the detriment of the individual. His basic rights and freedoms were stifled and it was drilled into him, to quote a contemporary writer, that a blast furnace was more appropriate than the parliament as a symbol of civilisation and progress. The contrived stability of government was considered more important than the whole array of civil rights!

Long years ago, Swami Vivekananda, one of the noblest sons of India, emphatically declared that no matter what industrial power or military muscle a country possessed, it could not be stable or strong if the moral fibre of the people remained fragile. A facade of stability and strength was fabricated in the country. What was the use of such stability, even if it were real, if achieved at the cost of the fundamental freedoms and human values? Where was the strength of the nation when the Govern-

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ment saw conspiracies behind every bush, dangers lurking behind the Most Innocent popular manifestations and a threat to its survival in even the most sacred invocations to dignity and honour?

Millions of people silently asked these questions and awaited the hour of reckoning. In their hearts they knew the answers, which had to be articulated at the right moment. Beneath the veneer of passivity, the embers of protest were simmering. The people conformed superficially until an opportunity arose to reject the imposed lie and deception.

The patriotism of our people is a legend. Amidst all our quarrels and differences, the diversity and disparateness, there beats a heart in every Indian full of love and regard for his or her country. The French thinker de Tocqueville once said, "the fondness that one shows for absolute government is exactly proportional to the contempt one professes for his country". The common man's love for his country, in this instance, ensured that there was going to be no "fondness for abso-

lute government".

So India witnessed a regeneration of values that have sustained her through the ages and which had inspired our struggle for Independence. This Moral reawakening draws inspiration from the belief that man is not a mere social animal but a part of the Divine cosmos. Ancient philosophers, In our land and other civilisations, like Buddha and Aristotle, taught us that the soul is the meaning of the body. The soul, the voice of conscience, once again prevailed over the debasing currents of conceit and authoritarianism.

Our people achieved it through a very simple device that Mahatma Gandhi taught us. The Mahatma's single greatest quality was his utter fearlessness. The people discarded fear and discovered that the struggle against absolutism was not as difficult as they had assumed. In this struggle, non-violence was our creed and truthfulness our watchword. Opposition to injustice became our strategy and peaceful change the objective. The culmination of this struggle in the unprecedented victory of the forces of democracy over autocracy is now too well known to you to need repetition.

in the six months that we have 'been In office we have succeeded In dismantling the apparatus of fear and suppression that had immobilised the human mind. We have set out to restore the rule of law and the equality before law of all citizens without exceptions. We am determined to introduce such safeguards and guarantees that would make it impossible for any Government In future to use the Constitution to undermine its very basis. Whatever else we may achieve, we are determined to make Democracy secure for the future. In all this we are not motivated by anger or desire to hand out retribution. We will do this in all humility and in strict observance of the laws of the land. As that great 19th century philosopher, Herzen said, "one must open men's eyes, not tear them out". Persuasion and tolerance would be our method. But we will not compromise with evil, wherever it may be residing, in our own midst or elsewhere.

As you are doubtless aware, the platform of the Janata Party was "Liberty and Bread". Having secured liberty for our people and banished fear from their hearts, we are going ahead with redeeming the other pledge. It is our endeavour to ensure bread and a decent existence to all the people of India. Our effort will be to build an egalitarian society, based on the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi and which seeks to provide economic prosperity and equal opportunities for all, without destroying the fundamental liberties of the individual.

This would call for new concepts and strategies of planning. We would not seek to establish industrial gigantism, and yet there can be no dilution of the objective of creating a modern economy. The new economy will have as its parameters, rural development and the eradication of unemployment. Our democratic commitment would preclude the discipline of centralism, and yet the economy cannot be left totally to the mercy of chaotic growth.

It is obvious that the world of today does not provide the model that India is seeking. The model and the conceptual strategy of economic growth will have, therefore, to be devised in India itself.

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The Indian society as a whole today can perhaps be described as trans-traditional and pre-industrial. More than 70 per cent of the Indian people are still attached to land and live in rural areas. The land is limited and is not everywhere sufficiently rewarding. A weak rural economy generates intolerable pressures upon the facilities in the urban areas. This unhealthy phenomenon has been going on unchecked for many decades and is responsible for the many distortions that have taken place in India's economic development pattern as well as strategy.

We are determined to reverse this process. Our primary concern is to provide creative rural employment, to strengthen the agricultural base and thereby infuse a new

lite into the Indian economy. our greatest asset are our vast human resources endowed with ample talent and diligence. We also have the institutional framework to impart any skills that are needed to the rural working population. Instead of regarding this reservoir of human resources as a burden, we would attempt to harness it to bring about the long neglected socioeconomic transformation of the rural community.

Statistically speaking, India is supposed to be among the first ten industrial nations of the world. We have a very wide infrastructure spanning heavy industry, capital manufacturing capability and consumer and light industries. But when one calculates the per capita share of this industrial wealth, the statistics cease to be impressive. We have most of the raw materials and skills for rapid industrial growth. But we will have to consider its dimension carefully in the background of what I have stated earlier about the imperatives of rural development. From now on, our attempt would be to dovetail the mechanics of industrial expansion into the requirements of the rural and the weakest sections of the economy which have by and large remained insulated from the profits of industrialisation.

The biggest weakness in the concept and practice of economic planning in my country so far has been the rigidity of approach. Lack of realism regarding resources mobilisation along with the absence of an adequate defence mechanism against seasonal variations, has further compounded the situation. What we need is a fiscal policy mix that would inhibit conspicuous and vulgar consumption but encourage both earnings and savings.

We inherited an economic structure with all its constraints which could not provide for the requirements of a free society. Those who charge us for lack of direction in the economic field fail to appreciate the fact that what is now required is not to drift with the momentum of the old, but to launch in a new direction and a new determination to implement a time bound programme. Rise in prices and shortages of some commodities

are not of post election creation. They were very much in evidence long before this Government assumed office and in fact owe this origin to the misplaced priorities and wrong strategies adopted so far. The truth is that in the short-time since we were catapulted into office from the prison the Government has moved decisively towards facing the challenges on the economic front.

The Janata Government welcomes criticism. We do not regard ourselves as infallible. The recent manifestations of popular discontent, which have received wide coverage in a free and critical Press, both within India and outside and on the one hand an indicator of a society not longer shackled and confined; on the other they serve as a warning to any Government that the people will not put up with delay and drift any longer.

Emphasis on rural development which, as I mentioned earlier, is one of our imperatives, however does not preclude the growth of sophisticated technology. Because of historical constraints we missed out on the industrial and technological revolution of the 18th-19th centuries. We are determined not to lag behind in the current phase of technological revolution. The most pressing need in this sphere is in the sector of energy and specially in the search of its new forms. We attach considerable importance to the peaceful utilisation of the atom and we find no justification to warrant any misunderstanding of our intentions.

Our policy is clear. We will never manufacture atomic weapons nor proliferate

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the technology of weapon development. It is our solemn resolve that whatever the rest of the world may do, we will never use the atomic energy for military purposes. Man has enough pathogenic enemies and India has no intention of creating many more through nuclear pollution. But we will not accept discrimination and we will sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty only when nuclear weapon powers have given convinc-

ing evidence of their desire to ban and destroy nuclear weapons.

India's foreign policy, inspired by the ideals Of Our freedom struggle and evolved over the Years through a national consensus, remains faithful to its basic premises. The recent democratic revolution in India, has given a fresh strength and vigour to the conduct Of Our foreign Policy. Ours is no chauvinistic nationalism. We are nurturing the constructive forces of nationalism to promote enlightened interests of the country.

The challenge that we and, indeed countries, face is to strike a balance between our national interests and international obligations. As a member of the international community, we are committed to the responsibilities that the discipline of international cooperation and interdependence impose. Being such ardent advocates of orderly Progress at home - to paraphrase a celebrated remark made by the great physicist Albert Einstein - we cannot be the exponents of anarchy in international life. Consistent with non-alignment, our faith is in genuine and not tactical peaceful co-existence; we remain wedded to the promotion of non-military and non-ideological bilateral relations with all countries regardless of their social system.

Our thrust is on cooperation and not confrontation; our interest is in stability and not in the persistence of or encouragement to international instability. Consistent with our polity, history and geography, the Indian ethos is today more strongly than ever directed towards an international democracy based on diversity, recognition of the constructive force of nationalism, especially in the developing countries, and international cooperation to rectify imbalances and injustices - political and economic - in the post-imperial and post-cold war period.

With our neighbours and near-neighbours, we are attempting to develop relations on the basis of beneficial bilateralism; wherever possible, we would attempt to add another dimension that of regional and multilateral cooperation. With the USSR and

other socialist countries, we have the same approach of bilateral cooperation which is strengthened by a common desire to promote peace and stability. With the People's Republic of China, we would continue our endeavour to normalise and develop relations on the basis of the five principles of co-existence and good neighbourliness.

In relations with Vietnam and Laos and the countries of South-East Asia, there is a quickening of the tempo while further East, that great Asian country Japan has become a new focus for development of beneficial cooperation.

So far I have sought to describe the significance of our democratic revolution in its approach to domestic problems and to the parameters of our foreign policy. You will have noticed that the reference to the United States has been left to the last. This by no means signifies that it is the least of our priorities. On the contrary, from what I have said earlier, India shares with the United States this faith and commitment - that the ultimate purpose of public policy must be whether it imparts to the individual liberty with dignity and this objective can only be reached if a political structure derives its sanction from the consent and judgment of the governed.

Alas, it may be true that despite this shared faith, our relations have seen not infrequent misunderstandings. As I said to one of your visiting dignitaries in Delhi not so long ago, India has flattered the United States both- by her expectations and by her anxieties. In the last thirty years, we have gone through periods of prejudice, suspicion and tilts. We suspected at one time that the United States questioned whether India had any ingredient of moral principles in its approach to external relations. There were also those who despaired of India, with its myriad problems of even being anything more than a story of economic and political failure. It was seen not so long ago as bottomless bread basket caught in a vicious downward spiral of poverty, and all aid and

cooperation was good money going after bad. and that flabby India could never muster the national discipline necessary to feed and modernise itself to make a success of democracy or reach towards the prospect of self-reliance.

The people in India recently confounded our local political pundits and, I believe the nation as a whole in the last few years has belied those who were prophets of despair abroad. Perhaps we can say to ourselves, both in India and in the United States, that the democratic system is not as flabby as some democrats and many protagonists of other systems seem to suspect. On this moment of renewed confidence in these shared ideals, a durable relationship of equality, benefit and genuine respect between our countries can be established. Not that we will have no differences in the future. But we can put behind us the period when the relationship was corroded by indifference and vitiated by false pride and unreasoned prejudice.

What we share are not just the vast benefits of mutual friendship in the realm of commerce and science and technology. I believe there is a shared faith that our national involvement in the world must contribute to inter-national stability. This affords the possibility of cooperation and harmonisation in the entire gamut of international problems, not as an alliance against others, but with goals for wider advantage.

This harmonisation and understanding between the United States and India cannot be confined to the level of inter-Governmental relations. In our democratic societies, national public opinions must reinforce our efforts in understanding each other, both nationally and internationally.

At times there seems to be a greater fascination for the unknown and almost an admiration for the discipline and achievement behind walls which allow Only controlled peeps inside them. The strength of our open societies, it is worth recalling, comes from taking the risk of advertising our Weak-

nesses and our failures. Democratic evolution will never be as dramatic as violent convulsions, palace revolutions, change of Juntas and propaganda somersaults. Viewers of the international political chessboard are often more intrigued by strategic scenarios, the struggle for influence and the game of balance of power, rather than the study of countries with economic priorities and only defensive interest in military preparedness.

Having flattered the United States With expectations and anxieties, the intellectuals and academicians in India have never downgraded the studies of the United States and the West. Tens of thousands of students search for knowledge, modern technology and even advanced study of the social sciences in the United States. They have played their role in our national economic effort and enriched the quality of our political democracy. Notwithstanding the expense and new restrictions, they continue to come to the United States. This, alas, is one-sided tilt or preference.

We should like to see a revitalised interest amongst American media, academics and social scientists in the open and not so dramatic experiments of democracy. We demand only respect and objectivity from your students and visitors and we are confident that it will be discovered that there is vitality beyond exposed failures and weaknesses.

it will, I hope, also be recognised that India is in the game of international politics with a purpose which is not disruptive to international stability. If we seek to eliminate fear at home, we also want to assuage fear abroad. We believe that, respecting other nationals, it is possible to have cooperation and co-existence and so blend with the international perspectives of all those who want to make the world safe for diversity.

A new India is rediscovering its old personality about the same tune when a new burst of idealism has gained focus of the new administration in the United States. There is undoubtedly a feeling in India that the United States under President Carter pulsates today with a new idealism and inspi-

ration which recalls the days when President Kennedy held this high office. Both in India and in the United States there is a new confidence that the cynics can be overwhelmed by the idealists. It is for these reasons of a new democratic faith and enlightened

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international perspectives in both the countries, that we welcome and look forward to the forthcoming visit of President Carter to our country. In this new beginning, notwithstanding difference, I believe, It should be possible to place our relationship on a basis where differences will never be allowed to loom larger than the community of purposes in the quest of our national and international goals. We could then promote an inter-dependence in this shrinking planet where ideals and even Ideologies of an kinds may all thrive In the knowledge- that there is an essential unity from which we can never break away. In this spirit and in conclusion I would recall the following hymn In Rig Veda about unity:

"Let your aim be one and single
Let your hearts be joined in one
The mind at rest In unison -
At peace with all, so may you be',.

INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC RUSSIA CHINA MALI LAOS VIETNAM JAPAN

Date : Sep 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Foreign Minister's Address to Group of

The following is the text of a press release of the statement by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Vajpayee at the

meeting of Ministers of Foreign affairs of the Group of 77 held at the UN Headquarters in New York on september 29, 1977:

I have great pleasure in addressing this gathering of the Foreign Ministers of the Group of 77. The firm coalescence and effective activity of this Group give satisfaction to us all and help promote the causes to which, we all adhere. The onerous task of Presiding over the Group in New York over the last Year has been discharged with distinction, Mr. Chairman, by your country's delegation. I join my colleagues in paying warm tribute to the delegation of Pakistan for its able stewardship. I also take this Opportunity to Offer my felicitations to the delegation of Jamaica who will be the Chairman of our Group for the coming year. The Group of 77, which started its activities by coordinating the Positions of the developing countries within the UNCTAD, has now become a crucial factor in international economic negotiations throughout the UN system. A new dimension was added with the convening of the Mexico Conference on Economic Cooperation among developing countries last year. Participation in CIEC by 19 developing countries on behalf of all members of the Group of 77 was another significant development demonstrating the effective unity of the Group.

Time is Opportune for us now as we meet during the thirty-second session of the U.N. General Assembly to reflect over the Prospects of future negotiations between the developing and developed countries and to evolve an agreed strategy for joint stand and action by our Group at this session in order to Promote early realisation of our legitimate aspirations and just demands.

Our strength is in our unity. It is because of our unity and solidarity that far-reaching decisions have been taken in recent years at the United Nations for the early establishment of the new international economic order. The Group has been able to withstand the pressures intended to divide it. The unity of our Group is indeed a function and the reflection of the collective interests of all its members. It is, therefore, of para-

mount importance that at this crucial stage we maintain and further strengthen our cohesion without which we the developing countries will not be able to achieve our economic and developmental objectives.

This calls for serious and indepth coordination and consultation within the Group of 77 with a view to ensuring that the negotiating stand adopted by us safeguards the legitimate interests of all our members. In this task we have succeeded to a very large extent in the past. We have to continue our endeavours and redouble our efforts because only such an approach can impart us the strength in our negotiations with the developed countries.

The draft declaration which, has been prepared by our permanent representatives reaffirms the positions consistently taken on major international economic issues by developing countries and reflects the urgency of over coming the serious constraints that we

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are all facing in the plans and programmes of our economic development

As a member of the non-aligned movement, may I recall here, Mr. Chairman, that the last ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned Coordinating Bureau had underlined that the need to maintain and strengthen the common front of the Group of 77 was now greater than ever before. The non-aligned countries had pledged themselves to continue to play a central and catalytic role in the Group to achieve this objective. The uncertainties which the developing countries face in their relations with developed countries make it more urgent than ever that they utilize their own resources to meet the current crisis and build their collective self-reliance through cooperation among themselves in various fields of economic activity. The action programme for economic cooperation adopted at the Colombo Summit for non-aligned and developing countries provides the basis on which mutual cooperation and collective self-reliance could be promoted. The expansion of cooperation among deve-

loping countries would constitute in our view a crucial factor in the growth of global economy and its early reorientation towards early establishment of the new international economic order.

May I now briefly refer to the recent developments in international economic relations, especially in the aftermath of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation, The group of 19 in CIEC was guided on its work in Paris by the positions consistently taken by the Group of 77 on all major international economic issues. We had entertained hopes that the discussions in Paris on raw materials, development and finance as also on international cooperation in the field of energy would result in substantial progress. However, the Paris Conference, while registering some modest advance, fell far short of its professed objectives. Limited agreements on the establishment of a common fund for raw materials, increase in official development assistance, and the special action programme constitute some positive results and need to be pursued further. However, no satisfactory agreements could be reached on the important problems of the purchasing power of the export earnings of developing countries, cooperation in favour of energy importing developing countries and the crushing burden of indebtedness. To this list can be added the problems of exported inflation and renewed tendencies of protectionism in the developed countries which are causing a considerable concern to all of us.

Our meeting is taking place in the wake of deadlock that had reached in the resumed 31st General Assembly Session and before the current session takes up the detailed consideration of the question of development and international cooperation. We believe that a polarisation of positions and posture of confrontation will only generate acrimony and bitterness and is unlikely to lead us anywhere near our goals. I, therefore, agree with my other colleagues who have emphasised at this meeting the need to concentrate all our efforts on strengthening our mutual cooperation and simultaneously bringing pressure on the developed countries that they

must be more forthcoming in resolving issues which have remained intractable so far. Our aim at the current session should be to ensure that the General Assembly not only seeks the solutions of unresolved issues but also decides on modalities for early implementation of decisions and follow-up of agreements reached and commitments given at the CIEC.

Mr. Chairman, it is our earnest hope that our deliberations will provide clear guidance to the Group of 77 in their deliberations on the vital economic issues which are on the agenda of the current session. The Group of 77 must endeavour to elaborate a common strategy reflecting the interests of all its members with a view to persuading the developed countries to move with greater speed and earnestness towards the establishment of the new international economic order.

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Date : Sep 01, 1977

Volume No

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INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

India's Pledge to Continued Support

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi of the statement made by Dr. Homi N. Sethna, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Leader of Indian Delegation at 21st session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at Vienna on September 27, 1977:

On behalf of my delegation and my own behalf I should like, first of all, to extend to you our heartiest congratulations and warm

felicitations on your election as President of the 21st Session of the General Conference of the IAEA. We are indeed fortunate in having a personage of your eminence and experience occupying this high office this year. Your election is a matter of particular pleasure for us as you represent a country with which my country has close historical and cultural links. In recent years, we have collaborated in a number of fields of mutual interest, reflecting the growing friendship between our two countries. I am confident that under your dynamic leadership and wise guidance, this session of the General Conference will be highly successful. In this, I am sure, I speak not only for my delegation but reflect the sentiments of all of us present here. Our good wishes and full support are with you in your stewardship of this conference.

This session of the General Conference marks the 20th anniversary of the International Atomic Energy Agency. In the first two decades of its existence, the agency has grown significantly both in content and form, adding new and important dimensions to the scope of its activities and the sphere of its responsibilities. As we commemorate its 20th anniversary, it is also a moment for reflection - an occasion for all of us to reaffirm our faith in the Organisation and rededicate ourselves to the cause for which this Organisation was created.

My country has been in the field of nuclear energy for over a quarter of a century. At the end of the second World War, when most nations still looked upon atomic energy as a force for destruction, India was already thinking in terms of harnessing atomic energy solely for economic development and we have never deflected from our commitment to the peaceful uses of atomic energy. In this spirit, we salute this occasion marking the 20th anniversary of the International Atomic Energy Agency as an instrument for promoting peaceful uses of atomic energy.

This is also a fitting occasion to pay a special tribute to Dr. Sigvard Eklund under whose dynamic and able leadership the agency has grown to its present stature.

Over the years, he has brought to this organisation, farsightedness, knowledge and experience which stem from long service and great responsibility. He is most eminently suited for this role and the agency is fortunate to have his continued guidance and direction. We wholeheartedly welcome his reappointment for a further period of four years, and we look forward to celebrating his 20 years as Director General.

May I take this opportunity also to express our appreciation for the excellent manner in which the secretariat has presented its annual report and the assistance and cooperation we have always received from the agency?

NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE CENTRES

We note that the study relating to the establishment of nuclear fuel cycle centres, has now been completed. However, we cannot but notice that techno-political considerations are now emerging which might influence the emphasis on this programme.

The work on safety codes and guides is progressing well. We in India have considerable experience on safety problems and we believe that this could be of use to other developing countries.

My delegation is happy to note that on the basis of the recommendations contained

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in the memorandum submitted to the Director General at RIO in September 1976, by member states of the RCA, the RCA has been continued for another period of five years from June 1977. In response to the agency's suggestion, India has drawn up a suggested plan of action for the period 1977-82 for consideration of RCA Members. We recommend that a scientific meeting be held in the region at as early a date as possible to finalise the plan of action for the next five years. This would enable the agency to assess the financial implications and find ways and means of making available adequate funds for implementing the plan.

The most important event in the agency's programme during the year was the international conference on nuclear power and its fuel cycle convened at Salzburg during May. This conference has contributed greatly to restore confidence that nuclear power is in fact necessary and an irreplaceable source of future energy supply to mankind both in the short and the long term. This stems from the recognition that nuclear energy is indispensable to meet world energy needs which would grow rapidly over the coming decades. Frankly, there seems no immediate and proven alternative to nuclear energy. Not only is nuclear power cheaper, safer and environmentally more favourable in many situations, the impending crisis in energy resources also makes it imperative to develop nuclear energy as a part of national programmes in many countries. This being the situation, I believe the agency could play a greater role in bringing to public domain more information on research and development in the field of nuclear waste disposal so as to allay unfounded fears and misgivings which are being voiced in certain quarters these days.

MAJOR SPHERES

A matter of concern is the provision of technical assistance to developing countries. In this regard, the Director General at Salzburg has himself expressed disappointment at the failure to provide enough resources for technical assistance to developing countries.

The two major spheres of the agency's responsibilities - the promotional and the regulatory - are the provision of technical assistance and the application of safeguards. These two facets of its activities are equally important. In recent years, while the regulatory activity of the agency has expanded greatly with increasing budgetary provision from year to year, regrettably, there is no evidence of recognition of the growing need for technical assistance. On the contrary, considering the prevailing inflationary trends and currency fluctuations, the technical assistance programme of the agency even with some modest increase in voluntary con-

tributions. has not shown any effective growth. It is essential that voluntary contributions should reflect in real terms an increase which should be capable of meeting all technically feasible projects requested by the developing countries. The time has come when the problem of financing technical assistance is resolved on a long-term basis and we do not have to belabour this issue each year. I believe various suggestions are presently under study. Meanwhile, for the coming year, the board of governors has recommended a target of U.S. dollars seven million for voluntary contributions in cash with an appeal for a further sum of US dollars 500,000. We, on our part, shall continue to support the agency's technical assistance programme to the best of our capacity. We have been providing fellowships and services of experts to other developing countries through the agency's technical assistance Programme, besides providing facilities for scientific visits.

CONTRIBUTION

In addition, my Government has recently agreed to implement a project in a developing country which the agency could

not take up for lack of funds. We are glad to announce a contribution of U.S. dollars 60,000 in our national currency to the general fund for 1978 which is higher than our normal share. It is our hope that the target for voluntary contributions would be fully realized and also that the agency would be able to gear up its operating machinery, eliminating impediments in its delivery capacity and unnecessary delay and bottlenecks in implementing its technical assistance programme.

In the past, I have had occasion to express concern over the tendency to apply

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restrictive policies in regard to provision of technical assistance in the form of fellowships, scientific visits etc. There is now an additional cause for concern as the application of safeguards is being extended to

technical assistance involving transfer of technological information in the so-called "sensitive technological areas". We are concerned and would like to be assured that this extension of safeguards would not in any way hinder the development of nuclear programmes of developing countries. It is also necessary to ensure that the well-established principles relating to the provision of technical assistance are preserved and there is no discrimination in any form in the provision of technical assistance to all countries. We note that the Director General has constituted a standing advisory group on safeguards implementation to advise him on technical aspects of agency safeguards. We are confident that the deliberations of this group will concentrate on the important task of assessing the technical effectiveness of safeguards implementation within the scope of the present system and leaving aside other issues.

Finally, I would like to mention a couple of new things which we have been doing in our country.

our nuclear fuel fabrication complex at Hyderabad has now entered into its second year of full commercial production. The plant manufactured uranium oxide pellets and a wide variety of zirconium alloy products from local ores. The plant has delivered all the tubes and calandria tubes for one of the Madras reactors. The complex fabricates all the fuel elements needed for Tarapur and Rajasthan Stations. These fuel assemblies for Tarapur and Rajasthan Stations are giving satisfactory performance at full rated irradiation conditions.

The first commissioning run at the power reactor fuel reprocessing plant at Tarapur has been completed. The various systems are performing well and an initial campaign is currently being reprocessed. Our expectation that fuel reprocessing costs including waste managements would be much lower than the indicative costs of such services in other countries has proved to be correct.

In conclusion, I would like to once again

emphasise the need for the agency to give greater emphasis to its promotional activities, particularly provision of technical assistance to developing countries. This is essential so as to accelerate and reinforce national effort in these countries to harness nuclear technology for the improvement and betterment of their standards of living. The agency has an important international responsibility in this respect and I am confident that it will continue to meet its obligations with a sense of dedication it has always displayed. On our part, we would like to pledge our continued support and assistance to the agency's activities. I would also like to once again express our best wishes to you, Mr. President, for the successful conclusion of this important session of the general conference.

INDIA AUSTRIA USA RUSSIA

Date : Sep 01, 1977

Volume No

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IRAN

Finance Minister of Iran's Visit

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on September 8, 1977 on the visit to India of the Iranian Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, Mr. Hushang Ansary:

The visiting Iranian Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, Mr. Hushang Ansary, called on Union Minister for Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation, Shri Mohan Dharia here today. The ways and means for increasing and diversifying Indo-Iranian trade and the possibilities of production collaboration and joint venture in third countries were discussed.

The Commerce Minister emphasised the need to increase India's exports to Iran to reduce the wide gap in the trade balance between the two countries especially during the last year. India's exports to Iran which was Rs. 2722.3 million in 1975-76 was reduced to Rs. 1445.8 million in 1976-77 mainly because of the reduced off-take of sugar. The imports in 1976-77, however, was increased to Rs. 5078.7 million in 1976-77 as compared to Rs. 4598.7 million in 1975-76. The Iranian Minister welcomed the suggestion and assured that his country would make efforts to increase their imports from India. The Commerce Minister referred to the recent change that had taken place in the country and to the rising aspirations of the Indian people. He pointed out that there was an imperative need to increase the employment opportunities in the country and suggested that the exports of labour intensive items like leather goods and engineering products could be a step towards solving this problem. There are possibilities of increasing India's exports in several non-traditional items including chemicals and pharmaceuticals, leather, rubber manufactures, iron and steel products, steel structurals, engineering goods like MS Pipes & Fittings, bicycles and parts, bright bars, auto & auto parts, diesel engines and parts, coastal vessels, electric wires and cables, bolts and nuts, TL towers, electrical power machinery, hand & cutting tools,, air-conditioners, electrical machinery requirement for petrochemical industry, railway equipment and accessories, commercial vehicles and ships.

The two Ministers also discussed the possibilities of production collaboration between India and Iran specially for supply to third countries. It was pointed out that the geographical possibilities between the two countries and the availability of man-power and necessary raw material would help in successfully competing with other countries in this sphere.

The two Ministers agreed that the possibility of earmarking the production of some jute plant in India for supply to Iran might

be considered. Meanwhile, officials of the two countries are identifying a number of products which can be exported from India and imported from Iran.

The Iranian Minister pointed out that they would like to see India strong and prosperous with more employment opportunities and equitable distribution of income among its people. Both the Ministers suggested that preference would be given to trade between each other when the qualities and prices of the products were competitive.

IRAN INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date : Sep 01, 1977

Volume No

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POLAND

Co-operation in the Field of Coal-Mining

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on the visit to India of the Minister and Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of Poland:

Mr. E. Sznacder, Minister and Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of Poland, accompanied by four other members of his delegation met the Minister for Energy Shri P. Ramachandran here on September 5. Shri Ramachandran was assisted by Shri K. S. Chari, Secretary, Department of Coal, and other senior officials. They discussed matters relating to further cooperation in the field of coal mining. The Polish delegation also offered its cooperation in the field of electric energy.

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Later the visiting Polish delegation held further talks with the Secretary and other

senior officials of the Department of Coal.

Mr. E. Sznajder met the Union Minister of Industry, Shri George Fernandes, on September 6.

The two Ministers expressed satisfaction at the progress of Indo-Polish industrial co-operation especially in respect of machine tools, textile machinery, agricultural machinery and ship building. They agreed that Indian and Polish organisations would collaborate for the promotion of more joint ventures in third countries relating chiefly to civil construction works, erection of sugar plants and engineering turn-key projects.

A high level delegation from the Polish Chamber of Commerce and Industry would be coming to India in early November to discuss with their counterparts, new industrial projects for collaboration between the two countries. Earlier in October the Indo-Polish Joint Commission would also meet in Warsaw.

The two Ministers expressed their desire for furthering industrial cooperation in keeping with the deep, traditional, close and friendly ties between the two countries.

POLAND INDIA USA

Date : Sep 01, 1977

Volume No

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UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Protocol for Collaboration in Steel Industry

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on September 8, 1977 on the signing of Protocol for close, Indo-Soviet collaboration in steel industry:

A formal protocol for strengthening collaboration between India and the Soviet Union in the field of ferrous metallurgy and allied technology was signed here this afternoon. Shri M. Sondhi, Secretary, Ministry of Steel and Mines, signed on behalf of India and Mr. V. I. Litvinenko, President of Tyazhpromexport, signed on behalf of the Soviet Union. The visit of the Soviet team is in response to an invitation from the Ministry of Steel and Mines, Government of India.

Under the terms of the protocol, there will be increasing participation and assistance from Soviet organisations in the development of India's steel industry and also for improving steel production in quantity and quality. During the couple of days preceding the signing of the protocol, there were detailed discussions between the 15-member Soviet delegation headed by Mr. L. I. Litvinenko and Shri Biju Patnaik, Union Minister of Steel and Mines, Shri M. Sondhi, Secretary, Ministry of Steel and Mines and Shri R. P. Billimoria, Chairman of the Steel Authority of India Limited. The discussions covered a wide range of subjects connected with the measures to be adopted for optimising the production at the Bokaro and Bhilai steel plants, as also for creating new steel-making capacity and for updating the technologies through closer Soviet cooperation with Indian organisations like MECON, EPI and the Research and Development Centre of SAIL. Among the important subjects discussed at these meetings were the general collaboration between India and the Soviet Union with regard to the setting up of steel and allied industries in third countries. Both sides have agreed to adopt a policy of increasing cooperation for joint consultancy, civil works, turn-key jobs and supply of steel and other equipment to third countries.

In pursuance of the Soviet policy of assisting the Indian steel industry in achieving self-sufficiency in all areas, Tyazhpromexport has agreed to investigate further the question of increasing production capacities, improving technologies and effecting

other economies so as to ensure the maximum output in terms of both quantity and quality from the Indian steel plants with the minimum capital investment in the immediate future. It has also been agreed to incorporate in the Bhilai steel plant the technological advancement made in the Soviet Union since the setting up of that plant in order to improve its economics. Technical data will be exchanged between the two organisations to work out detailed project profiles. Experts from the MECON, SAIL R & D Centre and the Bhilai steel plant will be fully associated in this exercise.

In the field of R & D, development efforts will be strengthened by both sides. Details of cooperation between the 'Research Organisation for New Processes in Ferrous Metallurgy in the USSR and the 'R & D Wing' of SAIL will be worked out jointly. It was also agreed that cooperation between the Soviet design Organisation GIPROMEZ and MECON of India will be further strengthened through increasing collaboration in the application of the latest scientific and technical achievements of new technological processes. The Soviet team has also agreed that all improvements in technologies and optimisation of production obtained through various measures suggested by them in the Bokaro and Bhilai steel plants can be utilised in other steel plants and by the Indian steel industry as a whole. This was in response to the desire expressed by the Union Minister of Steel and Mines.

The Indo-Soviet collaboration in steel is twenty-two years old and dates back to the first economic cooperation agreement between the two countries signed on February 2, 1955. The significance of this agreement went much further than the construction of the steel plant at Bhilai to which this agreement was mostly related. In keeping with its spirit, the inter-governmental agreement of January 25, 1965, on Soviet assistance for Bokaro also provided for maximum participation by Indian organisations in the design, equipment, supply and construction of the plant. Accordingly, the quantum of indigenous equipment at Bokaro

in its 1.7 million tonnes stage went up to 64 per cent as against 13 per cent at Bhilai in the first stage. This quantum is likely to go up to 75 or 80 per cent in Bokaro's second stage.

Considerable progress has been made since then by the Indian design, manufacturing and construction organisations - many of them with the active participation and collaboration of the Soviet Union. Their advanced capabilities are reflected in the increasing degree of their participation in the expansion programmes of the steel plants at Bokaro and Bhilai where MECON are the main consultants. While the basic design and technological concepts in the four-million tonnes expansion of the Bokaro steel plant continue to be as originally envisaged by the Soviet designers, the detailed engineering, equipment supplies and construction have been indigenised to the maximum extent possible. In the second stage expansion of Bokaro steel plant to four million tonnes also, while maximum participation of Indian agencies is envisaged, most of the design and know-how is based on Soviet technology. Only a small portion of the expansion pertaining to the cold rolling, mill complex consisting of the five-stand tandem mill for rolling thinner gauges, tinning and galvanising facilities will be designed and supplied on turnkey basis by the Indian agencies, MECON, EPI and BHEL. For this, MECON and EPI will utilise the know-how available with them through their license agreements with WEAN-UNITED of USA and may acquire advanced know-how from other agencies for this mill would be largely from indigenous sources, with the HEC playing a major role. This is in keeping with our increasing thrust towards greater indigenisation of engineering, design, equipment and construction activities for the steel industry.

During their two-week stay in India, the members of the Soviet delegation visited the steel plants at Bokaro and Bhilai. They also saw the EC Plant, the design offices of MECON and the R & D Centre of SAIL at Ranchi. Giving their impressions, Mr. Litvinenko expressed his deep satisfaction on

the performance of the Bhilai steel plant and conveyed his congratulations to all concerned. He also expressed full satisfaction

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on the very high level at which the Bokaro, steel plant is being operated and on the excellence of its products. Mr. Litvinenko said that he had no doubts that Bokaro, would soon be one of the foremost plants in the world.

USA INDIA ITALY RUSSIA

Date : Sep 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Admiral Holloway's Visit to India

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on September 28, 1977 on the visit of Admiral Holloway to India:

Admiral J. L. Holloway III, U.S. Chief of Naval Operations, called on the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, in his office here today.

The U.S. Admiral who arrived here yesterday on a four-day visit to the country, also called and held discussions with Prof. Sher Singh, Minister of State for Defence, Admiral Jal Cursetji, Chief of Naval Staff, and Shri Gian Prakash, Defence Secretary. The U.S. Naval Chief was accompanied at the talks by the U.S. Ambassador in India, Mr. Robert Goheen.

Earlier in the day, Admiral Holloway laid a wreath at Amar Jawan Jyoti at India

Gate.

The Minister of State for Defence, Prof. Sher Singh, reiterated the need for treating the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and drew attention to the United Nations resolution on the Ocean. Prof. Sher Singh said that all developing countries around the Indian Ocean, including India, were keen that the Indian Ocean did not become a hot-bed of Great Power rivalry.

USA INDIA

Date : Sep 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

TUNISIA

Indo-Tunisian Trade Agreement

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on September 30, 1977 on the ratification of the Indo-Tunisian trade agreement:

India and Tunisia ratified their trade agreement in Tunis on September 29.

The Instruments of ratification were exchanged at a special ceremony held in the Tunisian Foreign Office premises by the Indian Ambassador, Shri K. Pratap with Mr. Hamadi Ammar, Chief of International Cooperation Division in the Government of Tunisia.

The Indo-Tunisian trade agreement, which identifies a number of items of commerce between the two countries, is the first formal step symbolising the growing economic cooperation between the two countries.

TUNISIA INDIA

Date : Sep 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

VIETNAM

Economic Delegation Visits India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on September 9, 1977 on Economic Cooperation between India and Vietnam:

An economic delegation from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam led by H.E. Mr. Nguyen Chanh, Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade, visited India from August 25 to September 9, 1977. The delegation included H.E. Mr. Bui Tan Linh, Head of Asia IV Department of the Foreign Ministry of SRVN, and experts in the fields of textile machinery, engineering, metallurgy, transport, communications and animal husbandry as well as representatives of the State Planning Commission and the Commission for Economic Cooperation with Foreign countries.

During his visit, the Vice Minister of Foreign Trade of SRVN called on the Foreign Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Minister of Steel and Mines, Shri Biju Patnaik, the Minister of Industry, Shri George Fernandes, and the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Samarendra Kundu.

The delegation held talks with an Indian delegation led by Shri V. K. Ahuja, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs. The Indian delegation included representatives of the Ministries of Finance, Commerce, Industry and the Departments of Food and

Fertilizer and Chemicals. The Vietnamese delegation also had meetings with a number of public and private sector organisations in New Delhi, Varanasi, Calcutta, Bangalore, Bombay and Ahmedabad. They visited a number of industrial establishments in these cities. The talks and meetings were held in an atmosphere of great warmth and cordiality.

The two delegations explored the potential for cooperation between India and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and came to the conclusion that there was considerable scope, particularly in the fields of transport equipment, metallurgical industry and textile machinery. It was agreed that speedy action would be taken to promote cooperation in these fields.

The Indian side responded positively to the Vietnamese request for supply of food-grains to help them in tiding over a situation of temporary scarcity. An agreement has been reached on a interest-free loan of 100,000 tonnes of wheat and shipment and other details will be settled shortly.

There was also an exchange of letters between the leaders of the two delegations on the setting up of a rice research institute and a buffalo breeding centre in Vietnam. India will provide equipment and technical cooperation in setting up both the institute and the centre.

The Vietnamese delegation expressed sincere gratitude for the spirit of understanding and goodwill displayed by the Government of India in agreeing to assist a fellow developing country. The Indian delegation said that this reflected the warm sentiments of the Government and people of India for the Government and people of Vietnam and that their modest assistance would be in the spirit of mutual help and collective self-reliance amongst nonaligned and other developing countries.

VIETNAM INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

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Date : Oct 01, 1977

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Exchange of Letters Regarding New Trade Agreement

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 13, 1977 on the exchange of letters regarding a new trade agreement between India and the Arab Republic of Egypt:

India and the Arab Republic of Egypt have decided that all trade between the two countries will now be entirely on the basis of payments in free foreign exchange. Till the end of 1976, India and Egypt used to have bilateral trade arrangements providing for exports of specified items from one country to the other upto specified values. This system of bilateral trade arrangements will not be operative hereafter.

The two countries have also agreed on a new trade agreement replacing the old Indo-Egyptian Trade Agreement of 1953. This will be initially valid for a period of five years from the date of the ratification of the agreement.

These decisions were taken in the week-long trade talks between India and Egypt which concluded here this morning. The Indian delegation for the talks was led by Dr. P. C. Alexander, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and the Egyptian delegation was led by Mr. Youssef Salah Eldin Abbady, Under Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Government of Arab Republic of Egypt. The two leaders also signed and exchanged letters informing each other about the new agreement.

During the talks, the two delegations reviewed the flow of trade between India and Egypt and expressed their desire to further encourage, expand and diversify the trade. Exports from India to Egypt had exceeded imports from that country under that trade arrangement. It has been decided that the balance in favour of India arising from the

trade arrangement of 1976 will be utilised for importing goods from Egypt to India.

Egypt has been one of India's important trading partners. India's exports to that country steadily grew in the last few years. As against exports valued at about Rs. 150 million in 1973-74, India's exports to Egypt in 1975-76 amounted to as much as Rs. 1000 million but slightly declined to Rs. 910 million in 1976-77. The major items which India has been exporting to Egypt include iron and steel, machinery - both electric and non-electric - manufactures of metals transport equipment, jute manufactures, tea, sugar etc. In the recent years, in addition to traditional items like tea, spices, tobacco etc., there has been a growth in the exports of non-traditional and manufactured goods particularly engineering items, chemicals and iron and steel. During 1976-77, exports of iron and steel to Egypt amounted to as much as Rs. 320 million.

With its ambitious development programme, Egypt holds out considerable possibilities for further development of Indo-Egyptian trade especially in the field of plant and equipment, other engineering items like electric fans, sewing machines, trucks, buses, tractors, textiles machinery, oil engines etc., textiles including ready-made garments etc.

FLUCTUATION

India's imports from Egypt have fluctuated to some extent and in 1976-77 stood at Rs. 210 millions, showing a slight increase over the level of Rs. 180 millions in the previous year. The main items India has been importing from Egypt in the past is cotton. During 1976-77, some quantities of crude oil were also imported. Egypt may also shortly be in a position to offer to India rock phosphate of the grades that this country needs to import. Rice has also figured in India's imports from Egypt in the past.

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EGYPT INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date : Oct 01, 1977

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BANGLADESH

Clarification by High Commissioner to Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 29, 1977 when the Bangladesh High, Commissioner called on Shri Vajpayee:

Mr. Shamsur Rahman, Bangladesh High Commissioner, called on the Minister of External Affairs on October 29 on his return from Dacca and conveyed the assurance on behalf of his Government that there was no intention to imply that India was involved in the recent incident in Bogra and Dacca in Bangladesh. He added that following the trends towards improvement of relations it was the endeavour of the Bangladesh Government to maintain and strengthen co-operative relations with India. The Minister of External Affairs expressed his satisfaction with this clarification and said that as far as Government of India's policy was concerned it had purposefully sought to resolve misunderstandings and not allowed them to be magnified and so facilitate constructive and cooperative relations with Bangladesh.

BANGLADESH INDIA

Date : Oct 01, 1977

Volume No

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CANADA

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 6, 1977 on the Canadian loan for import of fertilizer and fertilizer materials:

India will get from Canada a loan of C\$32 million (Rs. 27.05 crores) for the import of fertilizer and fertilizer materials (MOP, Sulphur, Urea) from that country. An agreement was signed in New Delhi on October 6, 1977 by Dr. Manmohan Singh, Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance and H.E. Mr. R. L. Rogers, the Canadian High Commissioner in India.

The loan is on the usual soft terms, applicable to Canadian development assistance. It is repayable in 50 years, with a grace period of 10 years, and carries no interest.

With the signing of this agreement, the Canadian aid authorisation during the current financial year totals C\$ 54 million, comprising of C\$ 22 million grant for the import of rapeseed oil and C\$ 32 million now authorised for the import of fertilizers. Canada has been giving loans for fertilizer imports during the last 10 years. The annual authorization for fertilizers since 1973-74 has been of the order of C\$ 10 million. The present loan of C\$ 32 million would therefore be a substantial step-up in the aid for this agricultural input. The loan will also cover freight costs for the import of the fertilizers.

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CANADA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Oct 01, 1977

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CANADA

Ontario Minister Calls on Shri Mohan Dharia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 10, 1977 when the Ontario Minister called on Shri Mohan Dharia:

Production, cooperation and joint ventures in third countries between India and Canada were discussed here this morning, as a means to increase and diversify trade between these two countries, when Mr. Claude F. Bennett, Minister of Industry and Tourism, Government of Ontario, Canada, called on Shri Mohan Dharia, Minister of Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation.

The two Ministers took note of the fact that there had been substantial economic co-operation between the two countries in various fields and concerned businessmen and industrialists were also visiting each other's country to promote trade. One Canadian trade mission would be expected in India early next year.

Canada is a major buyer of Indian goods as well as one of the largest suppliers to our country. India's exports to Canada increased from Rs. 423.6 million in 1975-76 to Rs. 485.8 million in 1976-77. Indian exports to Canada include traditional items like jute manufactures, cashew kernals, coir and coir mats, oriental rugs, pepper, tea, walnuts, coffee and spices. India also exports non-traditional items like engineering goods, leather and leather products, plastic goods, cotton garments and made up articles, silk fabrics etc.

Imports from Canada which increased from Rs. 1305.7 million in 1974-75 to Rs. 2277.5 million in 1975-76, fell down to Rs. 1294 million in 1976-77. The principal items of import from Canada are fertilisers,

oilseeds, non-ferrous metals, engineering goods, paper and paper board and transport equipment.

The Minister of Tourism and Industry of the Canadian province of Ontario also called on the Tourism & Civil Aviation Minister, Shri Purushottam Kaushik here today.

CANADA INDIA USA

Date : Oct 01, 1977

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CHILE

Ratification of Trade Agreement

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 14, 1977 on the ratification of Indo-Chilean trade agreement:

India and Chile today exchanged letters informing each side about the ratification of the trade agreement between the two countries. The letters were signed by the Indian Commerce Secretary and the Chilean Ambassador in India in the presence of Shri Mohan Dharia, Union Minister of Commerce, Civil Supply and Cooperation and the visiting Minister of Finance, Mr. Serjid De Castro and Minister of Planning, Mr. Roberto Kelly. The Chilean Ministers also discussed with Shri Dharia ways and means of increasing and diversifying trade between the two countries and specific proposals for introducing new items like railway equipment, power transmission lines, machine tools and several non-ferrous metals,

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The trade agreement provides for facilitating exchange of goods between India and Chile and increased possibilities of industrial cooperation including the development of commercial infrastructure, like shipping for expanding trade between the two countries. The agreement also mentions about International Commercial Policy with reference to economic co-operation among developing countries for efficient utilisation of the resources and acceleration of economic development.

The agreement provides for export of engineering goods, railway equipment, pharmaceuticals and chemicals, textile and traditional products such as jute goods, tea, shellac and mica from India and imports of copper and other metals and minerals. wood pulp newsprint and fertilisers from Chile.

NEW POLICY OF IMPORT

During his discussion with the visiting Chilean Ministers, Shri Mohan Dharia gave an account of the progress made by India in various fields since Independence and also the magnitude of the problems of poverty and unemployment faced by the country. The Chilean Finance Minister explained the new policy of import liberalization and exposure to international trade followed by the Government since 1973 after four decades of isolationism and import substitution. Shri Dharia also mentioned about the recent policy of import liberalisation and the two Ministers agreed that there was ample scope for increasing the trade turnover between India and Chile.

The Ministers of both the countries discussed certain specific commodities which had been identified by the experts for inclusion in the Indo-Chilean trade. The Indian side offered railway rolling stock and track material. power transmission lines and supply of entire manufacturing, workshops on turnkey basis. The possibilities of export of mica and marble and import of copper were also explored.

The Commerce Minister referred to the recent meeting of the Indian Commercial re-

representatives stationed in North and South America held in New York and pointed out that the Government had taken steps to improve the economic relations with Latin American Countries. A special cell was created in the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade to bridge the information gap between India and these countries and help promote trade. Efforts were also made by the Shipping Corporation of India to introduce direct shipping lines to countries like Chile.

DEFICIT BALANCE

India's exports to Chile during 1976-77 were worth Rs. 2.9 million and imports worth Rs. 4.8 million leaving a deficit balance of Rs. 1.9 million. In the earlier years, however, India always had favourable balance of trade with Chile. The main items of our exports to Chile are jute manufactures, lac, tea and spices. Our imports from Chile consist of chemical elements and compounds, medical and pharmaceutical products,

CHILE INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date : Oct 01, 1977

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Visit by Chief of Army Staff

The following is a press release issued in New Delhi on October 26, 1977 when the Chief of General Staff of Czechoslovak Army called on Shri Jagjivan Ram, Defence Minister:

The Defence Minister, Shri Jagjivan Ram, said here today that the strengthening of friendship between India and Czechoslovakia has world significance,

Speaking to Col. Gen. Ing Karel Rusov, Chief of the General Staff of Czechoslovak People's Army and First Deputy Minister of National Defence, when the latter called on

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him here today, Shri Jagjivan Ram said that apart from the excellent bilateral cooperation between the two countries and the assistance that India has received from Czechoslovakia in matters of defence, he attached great importance to the identical approach of both the countries to most world problems. Both sought for international peace, for an end of imperialism and colonialism and for creating a better international order.

Earlier, Col. Gen. Ing Karel Rusov was received on arrival at Palam airport by Gen. T. N. Raina, Chief of Army Staff, and other senior officials of the Indian Army. Col Gen. Rusov is accompanied by four staff officers and is on a six-day visit to India.

NORWAY SLOVAKIA INDIA USA

Date : Oct 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Rs. 135.72 Crores Bonn Aid to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 14, 1977 on the Rs. 135.72 crores Bonn aid to India:

At the conclusion of fruitful and cordial discussions held from October 10 to 13, 1977, the Federal Republic of Germany has agreed to extend to India financial assistance amoun-

ting to Rs. 135.72 crores (DM 360 million) for the current financial year. In addition, an agreement was also reached regarding the utilisation of Rs, 7.123 crores (DM 18.894 million) which represents certain savings from previous commitments.

The agreement for the assistance was signed in New Delhi today by His Excellency, Dr. Dirk Onken; the Ambassador of the FRG and Dr. Franz Klamser, Additional Secretary of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation on behalf of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and by Shri R. N. Malhotra, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Government of India.

The assistance of Rs. 135.72 crores provided for the current year and the savings of Rs. 7.123 crores available from the past commitments will be utilised for the following purposes:

1. Project assistance of Rs. 88.595 crores (DM 235 million) for financing the foreign exchange costs of mutually selected projects.

2. Loans to Indian Development Banks to the extent of Rs. 9.425 crores (DM 25 million). These will be extended to the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (Rs. 5.655 crores DM 15 million) and the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (Rs. 3.770 crores DM 10 million) to enable the imports of capital goods for the small and medium enterprises assisted by these financial institutions.

3. Capital goods assistance fo Rs. 5.238 crores (DM 13.894 million).

4. Commodity aid of Rs. 28.275 crores (DM 75 million) to be utilised for financing India's current import requirements of industrial equipment, spare parts and accessories as also semi-manufactures.

5. A loan of Rs. 11.310 crores (DM 30 million) towards debt relief.

NEW ASSISTANCE

The new assistance except for the debt relief component of M 30 million will be extended on IDA terms viz. maturity 50 years including a grace period of 10 years and a rate of interest of 0.75 per cent per annum; the debt relief loan will have a maturity of 30 years including a grace period of 10 years and a rate of interest of 2.5 per cent per annum.

All loans extended by the Federal Republic of Germany are untied and enable India to procure goods and services on the most competitive basis.

The two delegations considered various proposals for project assistance for the current year. Apart from making further provisions for the Gujarat Narmada Valley fertilizer project (DM 55 million) and the expansion project of Neyveli Lignite Corporation (DM 60 million), it was envisaged that project assistance would be utilised for the 500 MW generating unit for the Trombay thermal power station expansion and for the acquisition of an oceanographic research ship from the Federal Republic of Germany. The requirements of these two projects will be of the order of Rs. 45.240 crores (DM 120 million). The Federal Republic of Germany will, in addition, provide scientific equipment required for the oceanographic research ship as a grant, amounting to another Rs. 5.655 crores (DM 15 million), under their technical assistance programme.

TOOL ROOM AT LUDHIANA

In the field of technical assistance the two delegations reviewed various on-going projects and noted with satisfaction that an agreement was signed recently for the establishment of a tool room at Ludhiana for providing common service facilities to small industries, involving assistance of Rs. 3.77 crores (DM 10 million). They also had preliminary discussions on several project proposals made by the Indian side in the fields of agriculture, education and technology. Furthermore, the German side agreed to

assist the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) in remote sensing surveys and to provide training facilities for Indian thermal power engineers in the Federal Republic and visits by German experts to thermal power stations in India.

GERMANY INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date : Oct 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND THE UNITED NATIONS

Shri Vajpayee's Address to General Assembly Session

Address by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs, on October 4, 1977, at the 32nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly:

Mr. President, Distinguished delegates,

India recently accomplished a historic, non-violent revolution. In a magnificent assertion of the indomitable human spirit, our people reaffirmed in March last their firm faith in a free and open society. Calculated efforts by forces of darkness and tyranny to destroy democracy were decisively defeated. The March Revolution was clearly of far-reaching significance for 600 million of our people. We are happy that its significance has been equally appreciated by freedom-loving people all over the world.

Our people boldly upheld the basic principles, values and aspirations on which the United Nations was founded more than three decades ago and regained their hardwon freedom and fundamental human rights. I have, therefore, great pleasure in bringing to the United Nations the greetings of our people and to reiterate on their behalf at

this 32nd Session of the General Assembly, India's abiding faith in the United Nations as an instrument for maintaining global peace and security and for promoting orderly progress through cooperation among nations based on justice and equality.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC REVOLUTION

Our new Janata Government has been in office for barely six months. Nevertheless, much has already been achieved during this time. Basic human rights have been restored. The pall of fear that hung menacingly over our people has been lifted. Constitutional measures are being devised to ensure that democracy and fundamental freedoms will never be allowed to be smothered again. But we are not going to rest content with this only. As solemnly affirmed by our Parliament on July 22, 1977, our people are determined to bring about by peaceful and legitimate methods "a socioeconomic revolution, illumined by democratic standards, vivified by socialist ideals and firmly founded on moral and spiritual values".

Mr. President, I am a newcomer to the United Nations. But India is not, having been associated actively with the organisation from its very inception. For me, it is a matter of great privilege to address this august Assembly. Indeed, as one who has been a Parliamentarian in my own country for two decades and more, I feel a special sense of exhilaration in attending this Assembly of Nations for the first time.

What has added to my pleasure is to have in the Chair, Mr. President, the representative of a country, which together with India, was one of the founders of the non-aligned movement and with which we have firm bonds of friendship. I extended to you, Mr. President, cordial felicitations of my Government and myself on your unanimous election as President of the 32nd General Assembly. Your election is as much a tribute to your personal eminence and wide diplomatic experience as to Yugoslavia and the

role she has been playing in strengthening the forces of peace and stability. We assure you our fullest cooperation in the discharge of your responsibilities.

I also take this opportunity to pay a warm tribute to the outgoing President, His Excellency, Ambassador Shirley Amarasinghe, the distinguished representative of our close neighbour, Sri Lanka, for steering the 31st session with great tact and ability.

May I also join the other delegations in paying my sincere tribute to our Secretary-General, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, who brings to his heavy responsibilities wisdom, patience and a deep commitment to the United Nations and its role in the promotion of international understanding and global well-being.

I would, moreover, like to compliment him for his thought-provoking report to the Assembly in which he has candidly drawn attention to the challenging tasks that lie ahead. The United Nations, he has pointed out, "Presents unrivalled opportunities" and "is still to some extent, an organization in search of an identity and its true role".

FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL COUNTRIES

The Janata Government stands firmly for peace, non-alignment and friendship with all countries. These policies have always represented India's national consensus and tradition. Non-alignment is a projection of national sovereignty in international relations. Its essence is not neutrality but freedom, which is the natural consequence of the struggle for the liberation of our nation from colonial rule and the liberation of the human spirit from subjugation and oppression. We believe in the true independence of nation States and their freedom to pursue policies in their best national interests, and to judge every issue on its merit.

The new government took the earliest opportunity on assuming office to declare its resolve not only to continue non-alignment but in fact, to restore to the policy, its original positive thrust. It is a matter of

some satisfaction that our stress on genuine non-alignment and our decision to pursue the policy with vigour and dynamism has been understood and appreciated in its proper perspective.

Mr. President, the vision of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakum" is an old one. We in India have all along believed in the concept of the world as one family. After many trials and tribulations there are prospects of realizing

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the dream in the shape of the United Nations which has reached near universality in its membership representing 4,000 million people of diverse races, colours; and creeds. However, the UN should not function merely as a conclave of governmental delegations. We must see how this assembly of nations can be transformed into Parliament of Man representing the collective conscience and will of humanity.

The U.N. Charter was a pledge not just by nations or for nations. It was a declaration on behalf of the peoples of the world to save the succeeding generations from the scourge of war and, what is more, to build a new world order in true freedom.

HUMAN DIGNITY

My thoughts are not in terms of the might and majesty of nations. Much more important to me are the dignity and demands of the common man. Our successes and failures should be judged ultimately by one yardstick alone: whether we are working towards social justice and dignity for all peoples, indeed for every man, woman and child. For its success the United Nations must become the effective voice of entire humanity and dynamic forum for collective action and cooperation based on interdependence between nations.

Our own history and political experience have taught us that the real sanction, indeed the ultimate power, rests in the will and response of the people, not in the governments. Thirty years ago, under the leadership of

Mahatma Gandhi, our people courageously fought the might of a great imperial power and ended its domination over India without resort of arms. Earlier this year our people successfully frustrated attempts by a self-seeking regime to deprive them of their fundamental freedoms.

What came to pass took many friends abroad by surprise. But to me the great political courage shown by the people came from our ethos and tradition. The individual in India has always been given the pivotal place in our religious and philosophic tradition. Our scriptures and epics have all along made one central point: the cosmos and the creation hinge on the individual and his fulfilment.

We have accepted all along that Divinity may have many forms. Everyone in India is therefore free to pursue his own path to salvation, irrespective of birth or belief. At the same time, however, our seers, in an unbroken line from ancient Vedic times to the present, have taught us compassion and tolerance towards our fellowmen. Gandhiji summed up the essence of this teaching in a favourite word *Antyodaya*, which means "unto this last". This word, which he used time and again in his messages signified the concern which any society should have for the well-being of the poorest, the lowliest and the lost.

I am, therefore, convinced that our national as well as international politics must be constantly permeated with the thought of man, his happiness and well-being and his essential unity with fellow beings. I am not thinking of Man in the abstract in whose name tyranny has been perpetrated down the ages. What I have in mind is Man of flesh and blood. Our central concern must be his joys and sorrows, his hopes and aspirations.

Mr. President, we stand for peace - a warm living peace - which is the bedrock of all our efforts. Peace, however, is not just the absence of war. The tenuous fabric of world peace could be torn asunder any time. Peace can be secured only by collective effort to end exploitation and domination of one

people over another and by eliminating glaring inequalities and imbalances between nations, and in the rights and opportunities for the world's peoples.

SPIRIT OF ACCOMMODATION

Each nation State has, no doubt, to preserve and promote its national interests. But no country can live in isolation within the four corners of its frontiers. We have to recognize the inevitability of global interdependence for promoting human welfare and happiness in every part of the world. And, interdependence demands that we should all look beyond our national horizons and display a spirit of accommodation and sacrifice in order to share with the rest of mankind the fruits of progress and prosperity.

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The world has come a long way since India launched its national liberation movement against colonialism and imperialism. As an Asian country, we watched with anguish the enormity of the suffering and sacrifice of the brave Vietnamese people in their long struggle for national liberation. Their ultimate success is a shining tribute to the might and power of the human spirit and its indomitable resistance to subjugation.

We are happy that the United Nations has rightly and properly mounted an international operation to provide assistance for the reconstruction of Vietnam and for the rehabilitation of its people, a task in which my country is extending its full cooperation.

It is with a feeling of great joy that we welcome the entry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam into the United Nations. We also extend a cordial welcome to a new African state, the Republic of Djibouti. The entry of these two countries into the United Nations has taken this organization one step closer to its goal of universality. We have friendly ties with both countries and look forward to working with them in closest cooperation.

We mourn the passing of Archbishop

Makarios, President of Cyprus, and pay our homage to his memory. The late Archbishop was a world statesman and one of the founding fathers of the non-aligned movement. He was the chief architect of the independence of Cyprus and its struggle to preserve its identity.

Mr. President, the agenda before the Assembly is one covering a multitude of problems of current concern to the world. May I only spotlight a few specific issues which are of great importance and urgency and must have a priority in our collective deliberations.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Foremost among these problems is the momentous and agonising struggle for human rights and freedom in Southern Africa. India has always been opposed to unnecessary bloodshed and violence in national affairs and interstate relations. It stands for non-violence and for resolving conflicts along the path of peace and negotiations. Even during the dark period of foreign subjugation, India adhered to certain basic principles: steadfast opposition to Colonial oppression and total rejection of any form of racialism and suppression of human rights. India's dedication to these principles is even deeper today.

The challenge in Africa is clear: whether a people have the inalienable right to live in dignity and freedom or whether a racist minority can be allowed to perpetrate injustice and oppression over the vast majority. There is no question that all forms of racialism must be eradicated, root and branch. Apartheid must go. Its continuance is a blot on humanity and a grave reflection on the United Nations.

India would like to see the problem of Zimbabwe resolved at the earliest through peaceful means. It has thus welcomed the positive elements in the recent Anglo-U.S. initiative taken towards the establishment of genuine majority rule within a time-bound framework. We hope that the Security Council resolution adopted recently on the

subject will lead to a ceasefire and eventually to a solution.

Much will depend upon the willingness of the illegal Ian Smith regime to see reason and give up its arrogance and intransigence. Until the Smith regime is ousted from power and freedom restored to the long-suffering people, we cannot expect the freedom fighters to lay down their arms. In the meantime, India reaffirms its support for and solidarity with the patriotic forces of Zimbabwe who are valiantly fighting for the liberation of their country against heavy odds. If world opinion continues to be wilfully defied by Ian Smith in a desperate bid to cling to power, the United Nations will have to exercise all its authority to widen the mandatory sanctions against the illegal minority regime and its South African supporter. This alone would hasten its collapse and help restore to the people of Zimbabwe their inalienable right to determine their own destiny.

The authority, credibility and prestige of the United Nations faces an equal stubborn challenge in Namibia which has the status of international territory.

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It remains to be seen whether the efforts of the Western powers can bring about the withdrawal of South Africa from Namibia so that the resolutions of the UN may be implemented. We condemn South Africa for its decision to integrate Walvis Bay, a part of Namibia, with the Cape Province. We also condemn South Africa for its reported plans to use a part of Namibian territory for nuclear testing.

We stand by the SWAPO and urge all nations to recognize its representative character. We cannot expect the people of Namibia not to resort to armed struggle if that is the only means left to them to achieve their goal of independence. However, the issue cannot be left to be resolved only by the efforts and struggle of the SWAPO. The United Nations has a collective and direct responsibility. It has by no means exhausted

its capacity to discipline the South African regime into total withdrawal from Namibia.

WEST ASIA

While in Southern Africa we face colonialism and racialism at its worst, in West Asia there remains an even more explosive threat to international peace. Here, too, some basic principles are involved. First, no one can be permitted to enjoy the fruits of aggression. Second, no people can be denied their inalienable right to their homeland. Third all. border disputes should be resolved by negotiations and not by force.

There can thus be no recognition of the territories illegally occupied by Israel through use of force and aggression must be vacated. At the same time the Arab people of Palestine who have been forcibly evicted from their hearths and homes must be able to exercise their inalienable right to return to their land. All peoples and States in the region have the right to live in peace and harmony with their neighbours. This is an essential prerequisite for a durable solution to the problems of the region.

The United Nations must also reject and repudiate the recent efforts by Israel to further alter the demographic character of the territories occupied through new settlements on the West Bank and Gaza. Unless resolved satisfactorily and in good time, the problem can have disastrous repercussions far beyond the region. There is clearly urgent need to reconvene the Geneva Conference with the participation of the PLO in it.

The situation in Cyprus remains unresolved. We still hope that bicomunal talks can be resumed and a solution can be found which is consistent with the territorial integrity, sovereignty and non-aligned status of the Republic of Cyprus.

Economic issues are an increasingly vital dimension of international relations. The concept of a New International Economic Order based on equality and justice has already been accepted by the world community. We must now move forward towards

its early realisation so that men and women everywhere could look forward to more just and equitable opportunities and rewards for their labours.

WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER

Mr. President, I mentioned earlier the challenge and paradox of how to balance national responsibilities with the imperatives of unavoidable international cooperation. After over 30 years with the United Nations, we recognise, better than before, that no nation or group of nations can become islands of prosperity in an ocean of poverty.

The discussions on international economic relations have been going on for more than two decades. Even the modest targets set for the current Development Decade have been either disregarded or diluted. The transfer of resources and technology 'has never been sufficient to correct the accentuated disparities.

All these problems were vividly explained and projected in the Conference of International Economic Cooperation which concluded in Paris this year. In the 18 months of long deliberations some progress was made but results were deeply disappointing.

A Special Fund is to be set up and some commitment to fulfil the allocation of ODA has been reaffirmed. But the major problems of transfer of resources and technology and relief from the burden of debt remain. The Common Fund within the integrated pro-

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gramme for commodities has been agreed-to in principle but remains to be realised in practice.

Arguments and theories are being put forward which do not show sufficient appreciation of the grave crisis confronting the developing countries. Perhaps this is due to the preoccupation of the developed nations with their own problems and difficulties. In many cases what is being given with one hand is being taken away with the other.

It is claimed that modern science and technology have the means of removing poverty and spreading the benefits of progress to the whole world. The fact, however, remains that the non-availability of the right type of technology to the developing countries is only accentuating the disparities between the rich and the poor. International commerce has undoubtedly multiplied in the post-war decades. But the advantage from its manifold increase has contributed mainly to the material progress and higher standards of living in the developed world.

The problems of easing of trade barriers for the developing countries and protection of remunerative prices for their exports remain more or less where they were following the energy crisis. The problem of oil importing developing countries is so serious that they can only look forward to nothing but mounting debts for survival.

We recognise that developed nations have their own internal social and economic problems. But they need to lift their perspectives and policies beyond the immediate and narrow national concerns. One could ask, would it not be economically sound to facilitate a significant flow of financial and technological capabilities from the developed to the developing world as an enlightened answer to structural problems for their own economies? An increase in the purchasing power of 3,000 million people inhabiting the developing countries could well provide an answer to the problem of unemployment and economic dislocation in the affluent world.

India has participated with vigour and sincerity in all the deliberations of the world community, not in a spirit of confrontation but in the recognition that the world economic malaise requires a, new sense of international interdependence.

In this regard, Mr. President, I venture to suggest an approach which was suggested many decades ago by Mahatma Gandhi, who, indeed, was a universal man. He had a clear perception of the world economic order based on certain principles which, in my opinion, may be summed up as follows:

(1) All people have a right to the satisfaction of their primary needs irrespective of the state of their economies, levels of their productivities and geographical location.

(2) Interdependence between nations must be without exploitation. Since there can be no genuine interdependence among unequals, action must be taken to correct this inequality.

(3) The developing countries must pursue paths of individual and collective self-reliance as part of their overall strategy to secure transfer of resources and technology from the developed world.

(4) Despite their division into nation States, the people of the world constitute one family. An integrated world economic order demands movement across frontiers not only of goods, capital resources and technology, as at present, but even more so of people themselves.

(5) Economic strategy should be directed towards the growth of employment rather than the growth of GNP alone.

(6) There should be a world wide movement against the extravagance of consumerism which tends to dehumanise and alienate man from his fellow beings.

(7) The developing countries no less than the developed must reduce the gap between their elite and their masses. An equitable world economic order can only be based on an equitable economic system within each nation.

Mr. President, as the second most populous country in the world, the dimensions of our problem are immense. Our achieve-

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ments are noteworthy, but challenging tasks lie ahead. As a country which has recently

recommitted itself to the democratic path and the principle of rule by consent, our tasks tend to become more complex.

We have no magic wand or instant solutions to a myriad of problems inherited from the near and the distant past. But we have reason to be optimistic and confident. In three decades of independence, the traditional genius of our people has enabled them to show their capacity to grasp the new opportunities offered by science and technology and to bend these modern tools of innovation and advancement to serve our own national needs.

INTEGRATED PLANNING

While recognising the advantages of international cooperation, we have sought to depend largely on our own effort for national progress and economic self-reliance. Our new Government is in the process of setting itself new priorities and removing the distortions that have crept into our policies and planning. On the economic front we want to move away from the growthmanship and blind imitation of industrialised States towards integrated planning in which man is at the centre.

We propose to concentrate more on the development of our rural areas where an overwhelming proportion of our people live and will always belong. We do not seek affluence based on elitist consumerism. We want to provide our jobless people with purposeful employment and fulfil the basic needs of the underprivileged masses. We seek to arrest, if not to reverse, the process of urbanisation which has become one of the biggest social and economic problems of the developing world - a subject on which Gandhiji sounded a note of caution many decades ago.

Even as India struggles for a better tomorrow, it has demonstrated its willingness to share the benefits of its economic and technological experience with other developing countries. Our professional and academic institutions have been providing training and instruction to thousands of students

from other developing countries in diverse fields for their social and economic developments. We stand for increasing cooperation with other developing countries to mutual advantage without in any way seeking either exclusive economic or political advantage.

Mr. President, India seek friendship with all, dominance over none. The Janata Government has actively sought to build bridges of friendship, understanding and co-operation with all countries. Attention has been paid first and foremost to strengthening ties with our immediate neighbours. This is the message I sought to carry to Nepal, Burma and Afghanistan in my recent visits. We look forward to consolidating the process of normalization of relations with Pakistan not only to ensure durable peace but to promote beneficial bilateral co-operation.

Four days ago, on the 30th September, the representatives of India and Bangladesh initialled the text of an agreement on the Ganga Waters issue. It is a comprehensive understanding covering the short term problem and lays the foundation for a long term solution to meet the optimum requirements of both countries.

This problem has bedevilled the relations between us and our neighbour for 25 years. The agreement vindicates our faith that such a complex problem affecting the economy and lives of millions of people of two neighbouring nations could only be resolved in a spirit of shared sacrifice and mutual accommodation through sincerely motivated bilateral negotiations.

Many political changes have taken place in the last one year in South Asia. Even so it is a tribute to the people that the area is today freer of tension than it has been for decades. If indeed, South Asia can find a recipe for peace and cooperation, all of us with similar burdens can then devote greater attention to development and turn the proverbial swords into ploughshares. In fact it is in this context that we make the special plea that the area around us the region

enveloping the Indian Ocean should be made free of great power rivalry and bases which can be used for aggressive actions. In

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the wider context, Mr. President, India welcomes the continuing search for detente - detente not only in Europe but everywhere so that the benefits flowing from it can be enjoyed by all.

DISARMAMENT

Year after year scores of resolutions have been adopted at the United Nations calling for general and complete disarmament, in particular, nuclear disarmament. The arms race, with its arsenal of fearsome weapons has reached such an alarming stage that the world is poised on a strange dilemma. We are told that nuclear weapons are necessary to deter war and that it is only the assurance of their use that constitutes the core of deterrence. We do not accept this thesis.

We believe that nuclear weapons are dangerous whether they are in the possession of one country, some countries or many countries. We are not only against the proliferation of nuclear weapons. We are against nuclear weapons themselves. India has been consistently opposed to the acquisition and development of nuclear weapons.

Indeed India was the first country to plead at the United Nations more than 20 years ago for a ban on the testing of all nuclear weapons. The Great Powers were not in a mood to listen to us at that time. When they were ready for it, they signed the partial test ban treaty. That was 15 years ago. The world rejoiced and believed that a comprehensive test ban treaty was only a short while away. But we are still awaiting. More nuclear weapon tests have been conducted after the partial test ban than prior to it. Underground weapon tests are being conducted even now. There has been no progress in nuclear disarmament.

We are not a nuclear weapon power and

have no intention of being one. The new Government has reiterated this position in unambiguous terms. Our Prime Minister, Mr. Morarji Desai has said that India would not go in for nuclear weapons even if all the other countries in the world did so. We did not sign the NPT because it was a discriminatory and unequal treaty. Nothing has happened since the NPT was formulated nearly 10 years ago to change our view.

Mr. President, India embarked upon a programme for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy nearly 25 years ago. We continue to be committed to it. We fully share the view that non-proliferation of nuclear weapons should not be confused with non-dissemination of nuclear technology.

We shall oppose as before any moves or measures that would come in the way of the peaceful utilisation of nuclear energy. We would also oppose moves or measures that are discriminatory in nature. At the same time we are prepared to cooperate wholeheartedly with other countries in discussing ways and means of putting an end to the danger of nuclear weapons.

It is both urgent and necessary for the political mind to free itself of military logic and for the political will to assert the force of reason and reverse the nuclear arms race in the direction of nuclear disarmament. We trust the special session on disarmament to be held next year will identify the priorities in nuclear disarmament and help formulate a time-bound programme of realistic and concrete measures for disarmament without further delay.

Already, the establishment of the New International Economic Order is being delayed because of diversion of scarce resources to the futile arms race. World military expenditure is estimated to be \$ 300 billion annually at current prices. Of this amount, 90 per cent is accounted for by developed countries which is equivalent to 20 times the official development assistance now given by them to developing countries. Even five per cent of the total expenditure incurred by the developing countries could vastly help

the efforts of the developed countries in achieving many of their modest economic goals.

A great deal undoubtedly remains to be done. We often complain of the lack of will or progress. However, there is no occasion for cynicism and despair. Despite our many disappointments, the family of the United Nations has an impressive record of achievement. I would commend the work of the ILO, WHO, UNESCO, FAO, UNCTAD, UNIDO and other organisations within the UN system. Given the required funds, these bodies could do a lot more to alleviate human

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suffering and promote well-being. A case in point is WHO's efforts to eradicate malaria, which is again raising its ugly head. Its programme to eradicate this scourge from the globe is estimated to cost about dollars 450 million - half of what is spent daily for military purposes. Yet the programme is dragging for lack of funds.

Mr. President, India is convinced of the necessity of supporting, strengthening and evolving the United Nations as a universal Organisation not only for preserving peace among nation States and promoting respect for human rights but also for fostering economic cooperation and harmonising the actions of States. This is clearly a vital task facing the international community.

WELFARE OF MAN

In the final analysis, I return to my basic theme. The greatest task before us which enveloped all issues confronting mankind is the welfare of Man, regardless of his race, colour creed or nationality. All our problems, the questions of war and peace, economic malaise, and rapidly diminishing natural resources must lead us to one conclusion. In our interdependent world, each one of us is his brother's keeper.

The one single all-embracing item on our agenda is the future of Man and it will remain so in the years and decades to come.

Man inherited. developed and still nurtures this good earth and is nourished by it. If we realise that his survival is inextricably linked with that of millions of others as never in the past, we will reach the only answer to the requirement of our times: national sovereignty must adjust itself to international interdependence.

Insofar as we in India are concerned, our sights are clear. On behalf of our people, I pledge before this Assembly that our country will never be found wanting in its resolve to share and sacrifice for the ideals of one world and for the welfare and greater glory of Man.

Jai Jagat
(Hail One World)

INDIA USA YUGOSLAVIA SRI LANKA AZERBAIJAN OMAN VIETNAM DJIBOUTI CYPRUS
ZIMBABWE SOUTH AFRICA NAMIBIA ISRAEL SWITZERLAND FRANCE CENTRAL AFRICAN
REPUBLIC NEPAL AFGHANISTAN BURMA MALI PAKISTAN BANGLADESH

Date : Oct 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND THE UNITED NATIONS

Apartheid Condemned

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 12, 1977 when the Indian delegate to U.N. condemned apartheid:

India has strongly condemned the "orgy of repression of unprecedented brutality" launched by the apartheid regime of South Africa. Addressing the U.N. Special Committee against apartheid in New York on October 11, the Indian delegate Shri H. V. Kamath, M.P. called upon the world community to assert unequivocally its will to put an end to the suffering of the millions of

black people in South Africa. The United Nations had waited too long without taking effective action, he said.

Shri Kamath said that the apartheid regime had not only ignored and flouted the resolutions of United Nations but had intensified its repression of the opponents of apartheid.

Stating that India had profound sympathy with the hapless people of South Africa since the nineties of the last century, when Mahatma Gandhi courageously organised the first mass movement in South Africa, the Indian delegate referred to the SWATO killings and said that it was a crime of staggering magnitude. The whole of South Africa had in fact become a vast prison for the oppressed people of the unfortunate land, he added.

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INDIA USA SOUTH AFRICA

Date : Oct 01, 1977

Volume No

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KENYA

Air Talks Between Kenya and India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 12, 1977 on the talks for bilateral air service agreement between India and Kenya:

A civil aviation delegation led by Shri R. P. Naik, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation, left here last night for Nairobi for talks with the Kenya Government on a bilateral air services agreement.

Air India has been operating three ser-

services to Kenya - two terminator services to Nairobi and one to Lagos and Accra via Nairobi under an agreement entered into with the East African community comprising Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The agreement also provided for operation of three services to India by the East African Airways. Since the East African Airways has ceased operations and the Kenyan Government has set up its own airline, the thrice weekly service to Bombay is being operated by the Kenyan Airways under a temporary authorisation.

Besides Shri Naik, the Indian delegation will include Shri B. S. Gidwani, Director General of Civil Aviation; Shri R. V. Rana-dive, Director of Information and Regulations in the Civil Aviation Department; Shri S. Ekambaram, Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation; Shri K. G. Appusamy, Managing Director of Air India and Shri J. P. Andrade, Director (Commercial), Air India.

KENYA INDIA GHANA TANZANIA UGANDA USA

Date : Oct 01, 1977

Volume No

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LIBYA

Visit by India's Industries Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 6, 1977 on Shri Fernandes's visit to Libya:

Libya has expressed great satisfaction over the performance of Indian companies presently engaged in the construction of the Tripoli-West thermal power station. The project is being executed by the BHEL. This was conveyed in Tripoli by the

Libyan Minister for Electricity, Mr. Jumah Salem Al-Arbash, in a meeting with the Indian Minister of Industry, Shri George Fernandes, on a visit to Libya. He said that there was a great future for Indian participation in the Libyan development plans in the field of power generation, transmission and electrification.

Stating that these plans involved an investment of one-and-a-half billion dollars in the next few years, the Libyan Minister told Shri Fernandes that Libya had a large requirement for both training and technical personnel. He said a Libyan team would be visiting India shortly for the purpose.

Shri Fernandes, who arrived in Tripoli on October 4, was accompanied by Shri V. Krishnamurthy, Secretary in the Ministry of Industry and Shri R. Bhandari, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs. He was received at the airport by the Libyan Minister for Industries, Mr. Jadallah Azzouz At-talhi.

Later the two ministers discussed Libyan plans for industrial development and also dwelt on identifying specific areas in which mutually beneficial industrial cooperation would be possible.

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LIBYA INDIA USA

Date : Oct 01, 1977

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MAURITIUS

Admission of Students in India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 3,

1977 on the visit of Education Minister of Mauritius to India:

Matters relating to the admission of students from Mauritius to Indian universities were discussed when the Island's Minister for Education, H.E. Mr. Jagat Singh, called on Dr. P. C. Chunder, Minister for Education and Social Welfare here this afternoon. It was agreed that in the wake of the introduction of the new pattern of education in this country, the question of equivalence of public examinations in Mauritius will be examined for admission to institutions of higher learning.

There are about 500 students from Mauritius in Delhi University alone this year, as against about 250 last year.

Mr. Jagat Singh suggested a review of the cultural agreement between India and Mauritius which is coming to a close and invited the Minister to visit Mauritius for signing a new agreement after it has been finalised. He also suggested the supply of children's books in Hindi to Mauritius.

MAURITIUS USA INDIA

Date : Oct 01, 1977

Volume No

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MEXICO

Visit of Wife of Constitutional President

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 19, 1977 on the visit of the wife of the Constitutional President of Mexico:

The Vice-President, Shri B. D. Jatti, held a lunch in honour of Her Excellency

Madame Carmen Romano De Lopez Portillo, wife of the Constitutional President of Mexico and President of Technical Committee of 'FONAPAS' here this afternoon.

Proposing the toast, Shri Jatti said: "Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen: I am very happy to have the honour of welcoming Her Excellency Madame Lopez Portillo, wife of the President of Mexico on a short visit to India. Her Excellency's interest in social and cultural activities can be judged from the fact that she is the President of FONOPAS, the National Foundation of Social and Cultural Activities of Mexico. During her stay in the capital Her Excellency will inaugurate some exhibitions which will display the various facets of Mexico's many-splendoured cultural life.

In spite of the vast geographical distance separating our two countries, India and Mexico have very close and friendly relations. It is interesting to note that their affinity extends even to the gastronomical field, as many will agree that their "tortilla" is just like our Chapati and their favourite dish "Carne en Chilada" can be compared to our "Keema Curry". I have no doubt that the visit of Her Excellency Madame Lopez Portillo to India will make a significant contribution to further strengthen the friendly relations between India and

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Mexico particularly in the field of cultural cooperation and exchanges.

May I request you to join me in offering a toast in honour of Her Excellency Madam Lopez. May I wish success, happiness and prosperity to His Excellency the President of Mexico and Madame Lopez Portillo. I hope Your Excellency will have a very happy and pleasant stay in India. Long live the ever-increasing friendship between India and Mexico."

MEXICO INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC OMAN USA

Date : Oct 01, 1977

Volume No

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NIGERIA

India's Assistance for Civil Aviation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 10, 1977 on the visit of Prof. Ossigbu, Nigerian Minister of Civil Aviation:

India has promised Nigeria all possible assistance in civil aviation matters.

This assurance was given by the Tourism. and Civil Aviation Minister, Shri Purushottam, Kaushik when the Nigerian Minister of Civil Aviation, Prof. Ossigbu called on him here today.

The Nigerian Minister said that they wanted Indian experts to train their airlines personnel both in India and in Nigeria. They also wanted the services of a senior airlines manager to take over as controller of their domestic services.

Shri Kaushik assured the visiting Minister that in view of the close friendly relations between the two countries India would try to provide all possible assistance. He requested the Nigerian Minister to let them know their specific requirements.

NIGER NIGERIA INDIA USA

Date : Oct 01, 1977

Volume No

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Telecommunication Agreement Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 1, 1977 on the Indo-Pak Telecom Agreement:

A telecommunication agreement was signed today at Islamabad by Shri K. S. Bajpai, Ambassador of India in Pakistan on behalf of the Government of India and Mr. S. A. Siddiqui, Director-General, Telephone and Telegraph Department, Government of Pakistan, on behalf of the Government of Pakistan.

The agreement provides for continuance of the existing telecommunication services put into operation under the Indo-Pakistan Telecommunication Agreement of September 1974, and for their improvement by the establishment of a direct satellite link between the two countries.

The agreement provides for the establishment of direct satellite links between the two countries to augment communication facilities now available via the landline links across the Amritsar-Lahore border.

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Bombay and Karachi will have two satellite circuits for telephone service and one each for telex and telegram service. New Delhi and Islamabad will have one circuit for telephone and one for telegram service.

The existing landline circuits will be rearranged to operate two circuits for telephone service between New Delhi and Lahore and one circuit each between New Delhi and Karachi and New Delhi and Islamabad. One telex circuit between New Delhi and Karachi and telegram circuit between New Delhi and Islamabad will also be operated.

PAKISTAN INDIA

Date : Oct 01, 1977

Volume No

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POLAND

Joint Commission Protocol Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 11, 1977 on the signing of Indo-Polish Joint Commission protocol:

The fifth session of the Indo-Polish Joint Commission for Economic, Trade, Scientific and Technical Cooperation concluded last week in Warsaw with the signing of a protocol.

The two delegations were headed by Shri P. Ramachandran, Minister of Energy, Government of India and Mr. Jozef Tejchma, Deputy Prime Minister of Poland and also included representatives of the Ministries of External Affairs, Finance, Energy, Agriculture, Commerce, Industry and Transport and Shipping.

During the discussions, both sides expressed their interest in the further consolidation and expansion of mutually beneficial economic cooperation, keeping in view the developing economic and industrial potentials of both countries.

Both sides noted with satisfaction that between the fourth and fifth sessions of the Joint Commission, Polish-Indian cooperation in the economic, trade, scientific and technical field had continued to develop successfully and the progress achieved so far had opened new perspectives for the further development of such cooperation. The implementation of the recommendations of the 4th session held in New Delhi in December 1976 was

reviewed.

The subjects discussed at length included development of trade exchanges and cooperation in the field of ships and ship-building including collaboration in joint design or cargo vessels. The two sides also discussed in detail the prospects of continuing their long-standing cooperation in the field of coal mining. Possibilities of industrial cooperation in third countries and cooperation in the fields of electronics, fishery and agriculture were also identified.

POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

An agreement was signed on cooperation between the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research of India and the Polish Academy of Sciences by the Indian Ambassador Sari S. K. Bhutani and the Secretary of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Mr. Jan Kaczmarek.

During his stay in Poland, the Indian Minister called on the Prime Minister of Poland and Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Shipping, Heavy and Agricultural Machinery, Industry and Energy. He also toured shipyards at the port of Gdansk, a coal mine and a power plant at Katowice and the historic city of Krakow.

Addressing a press conference, the Minister for Energy, said in New Delhi on

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October 11 that the protocol has been signed at the end of the session held at Warsaw from October 4 to 8.

AREAS OF COOPERATION

The protocol covered areas of cooperation in the field of trade exchanges, shipping and shipbuilding industry, mining and mining machinery, agriculture and fisheries, industrial cooperation, science and technology, health, television and radio. The discussions were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere. Both sides expressed their interest in

further consolidation and expansion of mutually beneficial economic cooperation keeping in view the developing economic and industrial potential of both countries. The two sides noted that the progress achieved so far in various fields of cooperation had opened new perspectives for further development of such cooperation.

In the field of trade exchanges, it was noted that the volume of imports into Poland during the current year was expected to reach the value indicated in the trade protocol. Though there had been some increase in the export of Poland goods to India in the first nine months of 1977 compared to the corresponding period of 1976 the deficit in balance of payments had continued to grow rapidly. The Indian side stressed the need for eliminating accumulated deficit and suggested that Poland should export additional quantities of commodities and goods urgently required by India such as urea and DAP fertilizers, rapeseed oil, pharmaceuticals, rolled steel products, zinc and caprolactum. The Polish side agreed to consider these suggestions. The Polish delegation expressed the view that Poland could supply to India capital goods like ships, mining machinery and equipment, power generating plant and equipment, textile machinery, machine tools and construction and building machinery. The Indian delegation explained that considerable progress had been made by India in establishing indigenous capacity in these fields and in case there was need to import any such goods, Polish offer would be considered.

In the field of shipping, the Indian delegation informed the Polish delegation that India had approved the contract for the delivery of six semi-container vessels by Centromor to the Shipping Corporation of India. It was noted that negotiations for purchase of reefer vessels were also in Progress between the Shipping Corporation of India and Centromor. The two sides took note of the discussions now in progress between Hindustan Shipyard Limited on the one hand and H. Cegielski and the Szczecin Shipyard on the other for collaboration for evolving a joint design for a family of vessels to suit the requirements of Indian shipowners. Endors-

ing the principle of cooperation the two delegations hoped that mutually satisfactory agreement would be reached by the end of March 1978. In response to the invitation extended by Polish Minister of Heavy Industry, India would send a group of experts to Poland preferably by the end of March 1978 to explore possible avenues of industrial cooperation in the field of ship-building.

FIELD OF MINING

In the field of mining, the two sides agreed on the need for speeding the reorganisation and reconstruction of the Jharia coalfields. The final feasibility report incorporating open-cast mining as well as underground mining techniques will be ready by November 15, 1977. Technical discussions concerning the sinking of two shafts in Jharia coalfields have been finalised and an agreement on this was expected during the current month. Discussions concerning the technical scope of sinking of two shafts for eastern coalfields were also in progress.

A letter of credit for delivery of one longwall complex for Monidih colliery had been opened and the equipment would be delivered within the validity period of the letter of credit. Other items discussed included coal extraction at Sudamdih colliery.

Poland offered to make certain proposals for a longterm agreement for supply to and manufacture in India of mining machinery based on Polish technology. The proposal is expected to be discussed by the Polish team during its visit to India next month. A similar proposal for training of Indian specialists in mining and mining machinery in Poland will also be furnished by the Polish side. Both sides noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in the field of industrial cooperation between India and Poland. It

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was felt that there was considerable scope for further cooperation in sectors like agriculture-based industries, machine tools, textile machinery and electronics. The two sides welcomed the agreements concluded between Indian and Polish organisations for produc-

tion cooperation and also joint deliveries to third country markets industrial machinery such as complete chemical plants, beet and cane sugar plants as well as dye stuffs and dye intermediates. The two delegations welcomed the agreement on scientific cooperation between the two countries which was signed on October 7, 1977.

FISHERIES

In the field of fisheries India had agreed to send the Indian personnel for training to Poland. Poland would also depute to India two experts on mid-water trawling techniques who would provide training to Indian personnel.

The two sides expressed the hope that Indo-Polish agreement on collaboration in the sphere of health and medical care would be signed in the first quarter of 1978. They also expressed the hope that Indo-Polish agreement on collaboration in the sphere of radio and television would be concluded early.

It was agreed that the sixth session of the Indo-Polish Joint Commission would be held in New Delhi some time next year. The Indo-Polish Joint Commission was established in 1972. The Joint Commission at Ministerial level is expected to periodically review, identify and recommend areas of cooperation.

Inaugurating the session, the Polish Co-Chairman of the Joint Commission, Mr. Joseph Tejchma referred to the existing close economic relations between Poland and India and described this as of utmost significance and expressed the desire for developing these relations further for the mutual benefit of both the countries. He also referred to the progress made in economic cooperation between the two countries since the fourth session held in December last. He expressed the hope that during the meeting of the Joint Commission further avenues of cooperation would be identified.

DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA

In his reply, Shri Ramachandran referred to the developments which had taken place in India in the recent months and stated that the people of India had in no uncertain terms demonstrated their will and abiding faith in democracy, and had elected a new Government to power. He reaffirmed that the new Government was determined to work for the economic prosperity of the country and provide social justice to its teeming millions. The Minister emphasised that the new Government would strengthen the existing bonds of friendship with Poland.

Shri Ramachandran, who arrived in Warsaw on October 3, was received by Mr. Joseph Tejchma. On October 4, Shri Ramachandran met the Polish Prime Minister Mr. P. Jaroszewicz and conveyed the greetings from Prime Minister, Morarji Desai, which were warmly reciprocated. The Polish Prime Minister and the Indian Minister of Energy discussed various suggestions to diversify and expand relations between India and Poland on longterm basis. In this connection the existing cooperation in the field of coal mining came in for special mention.

POLAND INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC BHUTAN RUSSIA

Date : Oct 01, 1977

Volume No

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SWEDEN

Training in Logging

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 5., 1977 on the Indo-Swedish project on training in logging:

India and Sweden signed here an agreement for implementing a project - "support

to Indian logging training project" with effect from October 4, 1977 for a period of three and a half years. This project is part of an agreement, exchange of letters of which took place on April 23, 1977, for providing assistance in the field of forestry to the tune

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of a-bout Rs. 4 crores (equivalent Sw. Kr. 20 million) for 1976-77 to 1980-81.

The project aims at improving the socio-economic benefits relating to logging operations in the country, provide training for Indian Forest Officers; assist in identifying possible improvements in off road and long distance transportation of wood and also assist saw milling industries through a study aimed at suggesting improvements both in saw milling techniques and design and manufacture of indigenous saw milling equipments.

The project envisages a total amount of about Rs. 1.5 crores (Swedish Kroner 76,03,930) from the Government of Sweden and about Rs. 10 lakh from Government of India. The Swedish assistance will be restricted to professional logging expertise, training of Indian personnel in advance logging techniques and equipments.

At the end of the project, it is expected that about 8000 - 10,000 Indians will receive training in a basic logging through the four centres to be established under the project.

The agreement was signed by Shri E. K. Seth, Inspector General of Forest for India and Mr. J. Traneus on behalf of SIDA.

A Food and Agriculture Organisation and SIDA Forestry Project Identification mission for India visited the country in 1973 and recommended a number of forestry projects for implementation with the assistance of SIDA. As a result of the recommendations of this mission, an exchange of letters between the Governments of India and Sweden took place on April 23, 1977.

SWEDEN INDIA USA

Date : Oct 01, 1977

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TANZANIA

Development of Coal-mining

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on October 12, 1977 in connection with the visit of the Tanzanian Minister of Water, Energy and Minerals:

The Tanzanian Minister for Water, Energy and Minerals Mr. Al-Noor Kassum, met the Union Energy Minister, Shri P. Ramachandran, here today. The two Ministers exchanged views on the development of power and coalmining in the two countries. Shri P. Ramachandran told the visiting Minister that India could help Tanzanian in the field of coalmining.

Mr. Al-Noor Kassum, also had discussions with the Union Minister of Industry Shri George Fernandes today. In his discussions, the Tanzanian Minister appreciated the assistance extended by India for the implementation of several industrial projects in Tanzania. Regarding further assistance to be extended by India, a reference was made for the setting up of a refined salt plant at Dar-es-Salaam. This project is being set up by the Tanzanian State Mining Corporation with assistance from the Hindustan Salts Limited. Total investment for this project is of the order of Rs. 30 million, out of which assistance from India by way of supplies of plant and machinery would be of the order of Rs. 20 million.

Another project referred to related to setting up of a thermal power station in Tanzania envisaging installation of two units

of 12.5 MW capacity each in the first stage to be followed by two units of 60 MW capacity each in the second stage. The Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited have conducted feasibility study for the project. The Tanzanian Minister expressed his appreciation of the capacities and capabilities, of BHEL and further negotiations will be held with BHEL for assistance towards implementation of this project.

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Tanzania would be interested in having an arrangement with India for the systematic exploration of potential areas to establish the presence of oil or gas, the visiting Tanzanian Minister, Mr. Al-Noor Kassum told Shri H. N. Bahuguna, Union Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals & Fertilisers when the two discussed here on October 10 wide-ranging matters pertaining to the exploration and development of oil in Tanzania.

Mr. Al-Noor Kassum said that since gas reserves had been proved in Tanzania they might consider setting up an ammonia plant to utilise available gas.

The Minister also said that Tanzania was interested in setting up a lube blending plant and would also like to have a plant for manufacturing containers.

The Petroleum Minister, Shri H. N. Bahuguna, assured the visiting Minister that India was prepared to put all the skills and experience of its men and institutions at the disposal of Tanzania. He agreed that teams of experts may be sent to Tanzania as early as possible to prepare quickly feasibility reports regarding the establishment of proposed ammonia plant and the lube blending plant there.

The Minister also agreed that the proposed seismic work in Tanzania could be started early and a team of geologists and geophysicist could be sent to Tanzania by January next year so that enough data could be collected by the end of 1978.

Earlier the Tanzanian Minister expres-

sed his deep appreciation of the "extraordinary work" done by the ONGC in Tanzania in establishing a large field of atleast 30 billion cubic meters of gas-in-place.

TANZANIA INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date : Oct 01, 1977

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TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT

Role of Non-Aligned Countries

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 6, 1977 on the four-day deliberations of the Principal Co-ordinators of the Tripartite Agreement in New Delhi:

The principal coordinators of the Tripartite Agreement between the Arab Republic of Egypt, India and Yugoslavia have reiterated the need to impart a new dynamism to the Tripartite Agreement in the light of the developments in the world economy and their intention to play a catalytic role within the non-aligned countries to further the ideas of cooperation among developing nations. They have also emphasised that the concept of trans-continental cooperation embodied in the Tripartite Agreement should be expanded and diversified in its scope and content through a determined effort to further commercial, industrial, scientific and technical cooperation between the three countries.

The four-days deliberations of the Principal Coordinators concluded here today and the main issues which would be discussed at the Ministerial Meeting of the three countries scheduled for early 1978 had been finalised. The agreed minutes of the meeting were signed by Dr. P. C. Alexander, Commerce

Secretary on behalf of India, Mr. Ranko Radulovic, Assistant Federal Secretary for Foreign Trade on behalf of Yugoslavia and Mr. Youssef Salah Eldin Abbady, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Trade on behalf of A.R.E. The subjects discussed in the meeting included ways and means to expand trade, industrial, scientific, technical and financial cooperation, transport and tourism between the three countries.

The Principal Coordinators considered the question of renewal of the Tripartite Agreement and agreed to recommend for consideration of the ministerial meeting that

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this Agreement be extended beyond 31st March, 1978 for a further period of five years. They also recommended to their respective Governments, a further list of 15 items for inclusion in the common list. Some of these items are carbon black, certain types of data processing machines, bearings, phosphatic fertilizers, certain types of antibiotics, extrusion machines and other textile processing machinery electrical appliances for welding, braising etc. Upon the acceptance of these recommendations by the three Governments, these products will benefit from 50 per cent reduction in custom duties in the three countries.

COMPLEMENTARITY

The Principal Co-ordinators also discussed other measures to expand and diversify tripartite trade and in this context it was agreed that suitable schemes based on complementarities and resource endowments would be drawn up for consideration by the fifth ministerial meeting.

In the field of industrial and scientific and technical co-operation it was agreed that there were substantial possibilities for tripartite co-operation, particularly in fields of manufacture and supply of engines, components and spares for tractors, consumer and shipping electronics and manufacture of passenger coaches. It was agreed that experts from the three countries would take

steps to work out the details of these projects shortly.

CO-OPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The three countries were also considering the possibility of a tripartite agreement on cooperation in science and technology. In the field of financial cooperation it was agreed that there would be an intensification of contacts between the banks and financial institutions in the three countries. In the field of shipping and tourism also more wide-ranging contacts would be pursued and the three countries would take early steps To conclude bilateral shipping agreements between themselves.

It was also felt that the three countries were well placed to undertake joint turn-key projects in fields like fertilizers and civil construction in the countries in Persian Gulf area and elsewhere.

The trade expansion and economic co-operation agreement referred to as the Tripartite Agreement came into force in 1968 in pursuance of the decision reached earlier in a meeting between the Presidents of Egypt and Yugoslavia and the Prime Minister of India. The agreement initially valid for a period of five years upto March 31, 1973 was extended upto March 31, 1978.

The visiting leaders of the Yugoslavia and Egyptian delegation to the Tripartite Agreement talks Mr. Ranko Radulovic, Assistant Federal Secretary for Foreign Trade and Mr. Youssef Salah Eldin Abbady Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Trade called on Shri Mohan Dharia, Minister of Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation in New Delhi on October 4, 1977.

The leaders of the three delegations reported the general trends of discussions to the Minister who impressed upon them the need to revive the old spirit of non-alignment which had brought about this agreement between the Presidents of Egypt and Yugoslavia and the Prime Minister of India in 1.968. He said that situation in three countries had changed considerably with each country

making progress in different fields of operations and felt that this Agreement should be modified keeping in view these changes in the economic sphere. He said that in considering the renewal of Tripartite Agreement the possibilities of increasing industrial co-operation between the three countries should be explored. He was also for increase in the common list of preferences between the three countries, to cover as many items as possible.

The leaders of the visiting delegations concurred with this view point. They felt that with the close of the first decade of the Agreement shortly more fruitful cooperation between three countries should develop in times to come.

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Date : Oct 01, 1977

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UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

H.E. Mr. Brezhnev's Speech at Banquet In Honour of the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai

The following is the text of the speech by H.E. Mr. L. I. Brezhnev, General secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. at the banquet in honour of Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, at Kremlin on October 21, 1977:

Esteemed Mr. Prime Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, Comrades:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome here our distinguished guest and all statesmen of friendly India who have come with

him.

Your visit coincides with a period of great and joyous events for our country which has only recently adopted its new Constitution and is approaching the 60th anniversary of its existence. And we are glad that you are with us in these days. Indeed, our countries are neighbours and our people are old friends.

On the eve of the 60th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution we recall the assessment of its significance by outstanding representatives of India's liberation movement. Mahatma Gandhi wrote that there can be no doubt that the ideal of Bolshevism symbolizes the noble self-sacrifice of countless women and men who have offered everything they had for its sake. The ideal to which such giants of spirit as Lenin have dedicated themselves cannot be fruitless. The noble example of their self-sacrifice will be glorified in ages and will make this ideal ever more pure and magnificent. History has confirmed how very true were these words by the great son of the Indian people.

Recently, the Indian people have solemnly marked the 30th anniversary of India's independence. Three decades are a comparatively short period of time. But in these decades the independent Republic of India has scored remarkable achievements in various spheres of life. As your sincere friends, we rejoice at this and wish the great Indian people new successes in their struggle for consolidating national independence, for social progress and peace.

The relations between the Soviet Union and India which have been cemented by the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation are highly rich and versatile. They include co-operation in numerous fields of economy, science, culture and art, co-operation which is ramified, stable and mutually advantageous. They also embrace interaction in world affairs which is fully devoted to universal peace.

The positive changes on the internation-

al scene for the sake of which our two states have made no small effort, demonstrate their scope and viability. But we also clearly see the dangers which are still in wait for the policy of detente, equal co-operation and the security of nations.

Neither the Soviet Union nor, as we understand it, India can look with indifference at the fact that in this or that area of the world there arise new conflict situations, hot beds of increased tension. We firmly believe that they should be extinguished without delay and that the problems which arise should be transferred to a plane where they are resolved by peaceful means at the negotiating table.

In recent months serious efforts have been made to advance towards a comprehensive settlement of the crisis in the Middle East.

It is to be hoped that the parties directly involved in the conflict would, assisted by the Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference, make use of the new opening opportunities.

Both you and we are directly concerned with the developments on the Asian continent. Our Indian friends appear to be conversant with the views of the Soviet Union.

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We are convinced that one of the surest ways to detente and security in Asia lies through joint efforts by Asian states taken in whatever from they would deem acceptable to them.

INDIAN OCEAN

The interests of Asian peoples and, indeed, the interests of peace in general would be served by reaching agreement on reducing military activities in the Indian Ocean. We are prepared to co-operate with India on matters relating to the Indian Ocean.

One of the main dangers threatening today peace and tranquillity of nations is undoubtedly the continued arms race. To stop

it, 'not to allow the world as if by inertia, by the force of the senseless logic of building up military arsenals, to slide down towards a nuclear catastrophe is the crux of the matter now.

In this connection the Soviet-American talks on strategic arms limitation are of no small significance. Recently there has been a certain shift to the better in these talks. We would like to have these negotiations concluded successfully without undue delays. Given a realistic and business-like approach by the American side this is quite attainable.

POLITICAL DETENTE

As to Europe, the task of supplementing political detente is now becoming particularly urgent. What can be done in this respect? As we see it there could be done the following:

--The participants in the All-European Conference conclude a treaty not to be the first to use nuclear weapon against one another. The draft of such a treaty has already been put forward by the Warsaw Treaty countries. It stands to reason that if all the participants comply with this agreement then this would totally exclude unleashing nuclear war in Europe as well as between European countries and the USA or Canada.

--To agree at least not to expand through involving new members the politico-military groupings and alliances in Europe.

-- To implement consistently such measures, already envisaged in the Helsinki Final Act, as notifications of major military manoeuvres, invitations of observers to attend some military manoeuvres, exchange of military delegations. The experience of the last two years shows that they really contribute to some extent to greater confidence and military detente. Having this in mind, we think that it might be worthwhile to agree not to hold manoeuvres above a certain level, say 50-60 thousand troops,

because mass-scale military manoeuvres arouse particular caution and look like military demonstrations.

If the countries of the southern Mediterranean are willing to have military confidence - building measures envisaged by the Final Act extended also to that region adjacent to Europe, we would view it with understanding.

This is the platform of actions which we propose in order to consolidate military detente in Europe.

Naturally, if other states have their own constructive considerations in this regard we would view them with all the attention and seriousness.

All this range of problems could be thoroughly discussed even in the near future - side by side with the Vienna talks - at special consultation jointly by all states - participants in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

It has always been our belief that peace is indivisible. And today it is, perhaps, even more true than ever. Fires of war can in a matter of hours spread from one place to other continents and envelope the entire planet. And, on the contrary, real progress in strengthening peace and good-neighbourliness in one part of the world can be of great benefit for improving the entire international atmosphere. Therefore, we are confident that peace-loving India duly appreciates efforts to strengthen peace in Europe.

Mr. Prime Minister, the Soviet Union will continue to do everything in its power to develop friendship with India in all direc-

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tions. If this is also the line of the Indian leadership - and we believe that it is so - Soviet-Indian relations have a good future.

TRANQUIL ATMOSPHERE

Soviet-Indian co-operation is developing

In a quiet and tranquil atmosphere with Strict adherence by both sides to the principles of sovereignty, equality and non-interference in the internal affairs of each other. Our relations are a good example of peaceful co-existence of states with different social systems and an important factor of peace and stability in Asia and in the whole world. In the process of their development deep friendship based on mutual respect and mutual trust between the peoples of the two great countries - the Soviet Union and India - is taking shape and gaining in strength. And we are confident this friendship will live for ages.

I propose a toast to the health of the esteemed Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Shri Morarji Desai, to the health of all our Indian guests, to the success and well-being of the great people of India, and to the further consolidation of friendship and co-operation between our two countries and peoples.

USA INDIA SWITZERLAND POLAND CANADA FINLAND AUSTRIA

Date : Oct 01, 1977

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UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Prime Minister Shri Momrji Desai's Reply

Following is the text of the speech by the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, at the banquet given in his honour by the Soviet leadership in Moscow on October 21, 1977:

Your Excellency President Brezhnev,
Your Excellency Chairman Kosygin, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am grateful to you for your warm words of welcome. I need hardly say how happy I was to receive the invitation of the Soviet leadership to visit your great country. Although I had visited it earlier, I readily responded to your gesture in order to establish closer personal relations with Soviet leaders and to demonstrate how we, in India, value our friendship with the U.S.S.R. and are anxious to consolidate and strengthen it.

1977 will, in history, be regarded as a year of great significance in both our countries. You will shortly be celebrating the 60th anniversary of the great October Revolution, an epochmaking event in the history of your country as well as in the history of the world, which has inspired and continues to inspire millions of people outside Your frontiers. For India too, 1977 will be a historic landmark. This year saw a unique change in India. In keeping with our constitution, a party which was in office for these 30 years, was rejected by the people and we, of a new party, were entrusted with the great responsibility of the governance of our land. This too was a revolution, but through the secrecy of the ballot-box. Some 200 million men and women, young and old, peasants and workers, were the heroes of this peaceful transformation of the political and constitutional scene in India. It has been welcomed all over the world as a unique example of our people's dedication to democratic values and as a revolt against an entrenched order which had defied public opinion and suppressed people's liberties. It will remain a monument to the will and maturity of the Indian people and for ever constitute a warning to any leader who presumes to take the people for granted. I am, therefore, happy to be here in the Kremlin as a humble servant of India. And I am proud to come as the representative of the Indian people.

In reaffirming today our mutual desire to strengthen our relations, we can state that this relationship is not based on personalities or ideologies but on equality, national interests and enlightened common purposes. Both our nations have recognised that we have a firm interest in peace in the world and seek to work for international stability

and cooperation.

Ours is an ancient country. We inherited a vast magnitude of problems accentuated by 200 years of foreign colonial rule. Even so, our people, in their independence, gave to themselves the parliamentary democratic

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system of Government to safeguard their political liberties and to obtain social and economic emancipation.

Your nation, Mr. President, had a different historical background and passage to revolution. The Soviet dynamism has chosen its own path to build a modern society in its own way.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

In these thirty years of diplomatic relations between India and U.S.S.R., there have been frequent exchanges of visits of leaders of the two countries. I myself warmly recall my previous visit to the Soviet Union. We have had the privilege of having you, Mr. President, twice in our midst.

It was during the first visit of our prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, in 1955, that the two countries affirmed the principles Of co-existence and cooperation between diverse political and economic systems. When this was proclaimed there were many in the world who were sceptical whether two nations so diverse in their political, economic and social systems could develop a relationship of dignity, equality and mutual trust. As we look back we can proclaim that in spite of divergent ways and outlooks, Indo-Soviet relations charted a new course in contemporary history. The preservation and continuance in today's circumstances of this relationship is a tribute to the maturity of two Proud nations who recognise the imperatives of peaceful co-existence.

Indo-Soviet commercial and economic relations have become an important element in the overall pattern of our relations. From a modest beginning, a wide range of agree-

ments have been concluded, culminating in the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Co-operation. I would like, on behalf of the Government and people of India, to acknowledge with gratitude the consistent support extended by the Soviet Union to us on questions of vital concern to India. On our part, we have reciprocated your goodwill and offered you our trust and cooperation.

The cooperation extended by the Soviet Union has helped India to make progress towards economic self-reliance and emerge amongst the more important industrial nations of the world. I am confident that in the same spirit we could further enlarge this mutually beneficial cooperation. Let me assure you that whatever strength we gather will pose no threat to any nation, but only enhance our resolve to contribute to peace and stability and to the solution of international social and economic problems. All nations, big or small, can rest assured that our progress will be in keeping with the undeniable logic of international cooperation.

FELICITATIONS

With this confidence in the future of our relations, may I offer my felicitations to the Government and the people of the Soviet Union on their achievements in the sixty long years following the great October Revolution. We have appreciated how your people, against heavy odds and at great sacrifice, faced mighty challenges and repelled invasions with courage and determination. I wish your people and your country even greater successes in the reconstruction of your society. May I also offer my congratulations on the new Constitution; we have noted specially that it commits the U.S.S.R. to a foreign policy of peace and cooperation.

Since my last visit 17 years ago many changes have taken place on the international scene. The cold war has nearly ended and there are new grounds for hope for peace in the world. Europe, which has been the scene of terrible conflicts for centuries, has enjoyed 32 years of unbroken peace. The Helsinki Final Act of 1975, in the finalisation

of which, you, Mr. President, took such a leading part, is an expression of the will of European nations to bring about detente and cooperation and positively improve relations across ideological frontiers. The representatives of the signatory countries are presently meeting in Belgrade to review the progress towards the declared goals. We wish them success, as we recognise that peace in Europe is vital for the peace of the world.

Mr. President, detente and relaxation of tensions in Europe cannot really be secure unless this spirit spreads to other parts of the world. We, in Asia, have suffered from centuries of colonial exploitation and were denied the fruits of modernisation and techno-

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logical advance. For us, peace is even more vital as without peace and cooperation we can have no progress or development.

COMMITMENT TO PEACE

Mr. President, as you know, it was this commitment to peace, development and cooperation which led us from the very beginning of our independence to adopt non-alignment as the foundation of our foreign policy. It is a policy which flowed from our ancient civilization and from the experience of our struggle for freedom and the principles that inspired that struggle. If we fought to secure political liberty against external domination, we were equally determined to preserve freedom of judgement, and action in our international attitudes. India has been unwaveringly faithful to this policy in her refusal to be tied to military entanglements. During our recent elections, there were many subjects of fierce controversy but foreign policy and the principle of non-alignment which has been the corner-stone of this policy was never a subject of debate. It is a policy which gives us the freedom to nurture friendships on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. As I have said earlier, on the basis of this criterion, Indo-Soviet relations have stood the test of time that this in no way need detract us from our policy of non-align-

ment. We shall persist with this policy and with our friendship. We shall also extend our friendship to all nations who are willing to befriend us. But the development of our relations with other countries will not be at the expense of proven friendships.

Non-alignment, let me reiterate, was never a policy of detachment from principled international obligations against colonialism and unequal relationships. Independence of judgement could also never mean indifference to international economic disequilibriums and imbalances. We join with other developing countries and enlightened nations to work for a new economic order which would afford just rewards for the developing world, in the face of the entrenched advantages of the developed ones. Positive and genuine non-alignment, in our view, goes hand in hand with the quest for international economic and social justice.

For our part, my Government, even in the short time we have held office, has made strenuous efforts to improve relations with our immediate neighbours. We know this must be a long process demanding much patience and forbearance. Gandhiji taught us that it is only in the spirit of true love that we can seek a durable resolution of differences. We sincerely hope that our partner nations, with whom we share the heritage of history and culture as well as the resources of nature, will join us to forge new sinews of cooperation to make South Asia a region of stability and dynamic progress.

There are other areas of the world where old tensions and new conflicts continue to threaten peace and stability. In West Asia, a long standing dispute continues to smoulder and the Arab peoples of Palestine remain deprived of their rights to their homeland: No nation can be allowed to occupy any part of another nation's territory. We welcome the recent call issued by the Soviet Union and the United States of America for an early settlement of the thorny problem in a resumed conference at Geneva. A settlement must soon be found which would allow all peoples and States in the region to work out their destinies in a

spirit of cooperation and harmony.

NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE

In Africa, a national liberation struggle is still being waged by the peoples of Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. We live today in one world and the suppression of freedom and liberty anywhere in the world poses a danger to all. Therefore, if the national liberation of people in Southern Africa remains incomplete, then the freedom of peoples elsewhere in the world could hardly be called as having been assured. We share with Your Excellency the concern for the restoration of legitimate rights to the peoples of Southern Africa. We condemn racial discrimination in all its manifestations, wherever it may occur and lend our support to the struggle against it.

We rejoice that the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Djibouti have been admitted to the United Nations. The world body will acquire a larger measure of universality by these admissions and is specially ennobled by the presence of the representatives of the brave Vietnamese people.

We share with the Soviet Union and other enlightened nations the concern at the

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danger of a nuclear war. This is a danger to our planet itself. All life on it regardless of our nationality or geography, is in equal danger from this peril which comes from the misuse of nuclear technology. Atomic energy like many a scientific invention has its constructive and destructive potential. It is up to us to ensure that through it we seek the victories of peace and not the disastrous triumphs of war. Atomic energy, marshalled for peaceful purposes, can open undreamt vistas of benefit and progress for mankind. India's position in the face of this peril has been made clear in declarations of policy at home and in international forums. It is my conviction and that of the people of India that the world must totally eschew the use of the atom for military purposes. This can only come if we can bring about total dis-

armament of existing nuclear weaponry. It is with this faith that I have publicly declared that India shall not use nuclear energy for other than peaceful purposes. I hope that the countries, which have embarked on nuclear weapons programmes, will have the Wisdom to cooperate to avert a possible catastrophe. It is only when we have attained a world freed from the fear of war can our search for peace ring true and hopeful.

MUTUAL RESPECT

Excellencies, I stated earlier that in my view the strength of Indo-Soviet relations is based on genuine mutual respect between two countries with different systems but who have become partners in each other's national endeavours and share so much in their international objectives. True to the genius of our people, we derive our inspiration from our civilisation and the path charted for us by Mahatma Gandhi. While our revolutions took different paths and reflect our distinctive national geniuses, our two countries have shown the way to cooperate with dignity, notwithstanding the differences,

Excellency, I am grateful to you for the cordial reception I have received on my arrival. I am touched by the kind words you addressed this evening. They strengthen my conviction that the further reinforcement of relations between our two countries and two peoples will not only serve our mutual interest but also consolidate peace and stability. May I end my remarks with a traditional Indian invocation:

Translated, this means, "May all people be Happy: May all people be joyous: May all people perceive the Good: May no one feel sorrow and misery". I have no doubt this also represents the sentiments of the Soviet people.

Excellencies, Friends I request to join me in wishing the good health, happiness and success of:

His Excellency the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR & General Secretary of the Cen-

tral Committee of the Communist Party
of the Soviet Union, His Excellency
Mr. L.I. Brezhnev:

His Excellency the Chairman of the
Council of Ministers of the USSR, Mem-
ber of the Politburo of the Central Com-
mittee of the Communist Party of the
Soviet Union, Mr. A. N. Kosygin; and
other distinguished leaders of the Soviet
Union.

I would also like to propose a toast to
the friendly Soviet people, wishing them
every success in their task of national con-
struction and finally to the further growth
of Indo-Soviet friendship and cooperation.

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RUSSIA INDIA USA FINLAND YUGOSLAVIA SWITZERLAND SOUTH AFRICA ZIMBABWE DJIBOUTI
VIETNAM

Date : Oct 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Broadcast Over Soviet Television

The following is the text of the broad-
cast by Shri Morarji Desai over the Soviet
television on October 25, 1977:

Dear Soviet Friends,

I am very happy to greet you all during
my first visit to the Soviet Union after
assuming the office of Prime Minister of
India. Your country is preparing with
obvious enthusiasm and satisfaction to cele-
brate the 60th anniversary of the October
Revolution. Let me felicitate you on this
event. Only two months ago, we completed
half as many years of our independence and
we both can look back to 30 years of friendly

diplomatic relations between our two countries. At the beginning of this year when I was in detention, I little expected that before the year was out, I would be visiting this great country as the guest of your Government, to greet the Soviet people on behalf of my country. This privilege has been conferred on me by the people of India who, in the exercise of their rights under our democratic constitution, have entrusted me with my present responsibilities.

However, I do not want to describe the internal political changes in India, but to tell you that it makes no difference to the steady course of understanding and cooperation between our two countries. Soon after my Government assumed office, we were happy to receive Mr. Gromyko, your distinguished Foreign Minister, in Delhi. True to the principles of peaceful co-existence, we readily discovered that not only was our friendship firm and our cooperation secure, but we could, with confidence, look ahead to improve our relations in future. When President Brezhnev kindly extended an invitation to me to visit the Soviet Union, I accepted it with the greatest pleasure. Apart from a visit to London for a conference fixed a long time ago and a stop in Paris on the way back, the Soviet Union is the first country I am visiting as the Prime Minister of India. The Soviet Union has stood by us in difficult as well as in normal times. In these five days, everywhere I have sensed the warmth of your hospitality. After the initial conversations, which I have had with President Brezhnev, Chairman Kosygin and Members of the Soviet leadership, I feel certain that we have established a personal understanding with each other, which will surely reinforce the firm friendship between our two nations.

Yours is the largest country in the world and a powerful one with an ideology to which you are deeply committed. Ours is also a large country, but a developing one. We have thousands of years of culture behind us and in keeping with our tradition, we have chosen the democratic way towards social transformation and economic progress. For all these differences, for over 20 years our two coun-

tries have cooperated with each other in diverse fields. There are more than 50 important projects in India which are symbols of Indo-Soviet friendship and cooperation. Friendship between 'nations, tied to each other by military, political or economic compulsions, are easily forged. But sometimes such friendships conceal inner differences and do not last. What gives our relations a distinct and durable character, is that we came together as equals, in the conviction that our cooperation served international peace and the abiding interests of the two peoples.

BASIC NEEDS

On this occasion, when I am accorded an opportunity to speak to the Soviet people, I want to recall how in the first 10 years of this century, Mahatma Gandhi and Leo Tolstoy became friends. They shared the belief that the progress of any society lay in the happiness and quality of life of its peasantry. We are still inspired by this vision of the Mahatma. We have no attraction for the luring example of affluent consumer societies. We are more concerned with satisfying basic needs and removing inequalities. Our success will rest on what we may be able to do to transform our villages, give productive work to our people and to assure them a better standard of living. We have a time-bound programme and are confident we can reach our goals.

The Soviet Union has achieved a remarkable transformation in these 60 years. I
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have just visited Sochi and Kiev and seen what has been accomplished in the field of health and welfare of the people and how you have beautified the landscape. We hope even greater triumphs in national development will come to you in the next 60 years.

Both our countries are embarked on the march of progress. More than that, dear friends. I believe we can proclaim to the world that Indo-Soviet relations truly show how nations, be they big or small, different and distinct, can forge a friendship which can

stand the test of change and time. We respect each other and have built a bridge of cooperation for the cause of peace. Ours is a relationship which none need fear and which any two nations can treat as an example.

I thank you.

INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM FRANCE UKRAINE

Date : Oct 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Text of Joint Declaration

The following is the text of the Joint Declaration signed by Shri Morarji Desai and Mr. L. I. Brezhnev on October 26, 1977 in Moscow:

The Republic of India and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,

Affirming their conviction that the fruitful development of relations between the two countries has vindicated that States with diverse social and economic systems can successfully cooperate to mutual benefit when guided by the principles of peaceful co-existence,

Recognising the importance not only of maintaining but further strengthening friendship and mutually beneficial and many-sided cooperation between the two countries in the spirit of the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation of 1971,

Reiterating their confidence that their continued cooperation, based on equality and mutual respect, makes a significant contri-

bution to the promotion of peace and understanding among all nations of the world. and in no way impedes the development of their relations with third countries which are motivated by the same objectives,

Believing that commitment in international cooperation between sovereign nations is essential for international peace and stability,

Welcoming the trends towards the relaxation of international tension and the increasing participation of newly independent countries in the consolidation of peace and international cooperation,

Reiterating their determination to cooperate in efforts for the elimination of all manifestations of imperialism, colonialism and racialism,

Declare their solemn resolve to strengthen further their friendship and cooperation which reflect, the interests of the two peoples and serve the cause of international harmony and understanding.

In the course of a comprehensive exchange of views held in an atmosphere of friendship, cordiality and mutual understanding. the two sides reviewed the broad spectrum of Indo-Soviet relations and examined major international problems.

The Soviet leaders informed the Prime Minister of India about successes achieved in the development of the USSR national economy in the implementation of the decisions of the 25th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the adoption of the new Constitution of the USSR which heralds a historic landmark in the development of Soviet society, the creative enthusiasm with which the Soviet people approach the 60th Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution which laid the beginning of an era of liberation of mankind from all forms of national and social oppression.

The Prime Minister of India conveyed his congratulations to the Soviet leaders and through them to the Soviet people on the

October Socialist Revolution and the new Constitution of the USSR which reflected the achievements of the Soviet people in socio-economic development and in science, education and culture.

The Prime Minister of India informed the Soviet leaders about the recent developments on the mandate of the Indian people and its political, social and economic programmes.

The Soviet leaders felicitated the Prime Minister and through him the people of India on their achievements in the years of independent development and welcomed the contribution of the Republic of India to the common struggle of the peoples against imperialism, for peace, national independence and social progress.

The two sides noted the great importance of the development of personal contacts at the highest level and expressed the common belief that periodic consultations and exchange of views on development of bilateral relations and on topical international problems at various levels serve a useful purpose.

The two sides noted that Indo-Soviet friendship has stood the test of time, it is not subject to transient considerations and serves as an important factor of peace and stability in Asia and in the world.

Both sides expressed their satisfaction with the development of the relations of traditional friendship and cooperation between India and the USSR in the spirit of the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation of August 1971, which reliably serves the interests of India and the Soviet Union. They noted that these relations are based on their common interest of the struggle for peace and international cooperation, on the principles of equality and mutual respect, strict observance of sovereignty and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

As economic, technical and scientific advance continues, new and more effective forms of cooperation are being developed between the two countries. As a result of measures taken by both States, significant progress has been achieved in the expansion of Indo-Soviet trade the total volume of which has quadrupled in the last decade.

The two sides noted with satisfaction the development of cooperation in the fields of culture, arts, literature, education, health, tourism, sports, which contributes to the deepening and enrichment of Indo-Soviet relations.

India and the Soviet Union express their firm intention to develop further and strengthen many-sided cooperation in different fields.

India and the Soviet Union agreed that a long-term programme of mutually beneficial economic cooperation in the development of important sectors of the Indian economy and bilateral trade exchanges should be worked out in 1978. Teams of experts of Indian and Soviet organisations will be formed to study and define prospects of collaboration in such sectors as ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy, petroleum, coal, agriculture, irrigation etc. as well as cooperation in assisting the economic development of third countries. The two sides will shortly identify the prospects of cooperation in the construction of an alumina plant in India on a compensation basis.

The two sides noted with satisfaction the progress of work being done under the auspices of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission of Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation and expressed their confidence that it would enlarge the scope of such cooperation through the long-term programme referred to earlier.

The two sides noted that there was a broad identity of views of India and the USSR during their discussion on major international problems. The two sides expressed their determination to continue active efforts

to strengthen peace and international security, to eliminate hot-beds of tension and the threat of war, and reiterated their respect for the legitimate right of the peoples to independent development.

India and the Soviet Union noted with satisfaction that the trends towards detente and cooperation have, in recent years, become more pronounced and underlined the

need for further extending this process to all areas of the world.

India and the Soviet Union viewed the task of stopping the arms race, averting nuclear war and achieving disarmament as the most acute and pressing task in the present-day international relations.

They are in favour of the early conclusion of a comprehensive test ban treaty as well as other international agreements on the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types and systems of weapons of mass destruction and on the prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons.

The two sides reaffirm their determination to facilitate the achievement of general and complete disarmament, including nuclear disarmament, under effective international control. They believe that the forthcoming special session of the UN General Assembly would consider in a comprehensive manner questions of general and complete disarmament and also express the hope for the early convening of a world disarmament conference,

In the belief that all states must renounce the threat or use of force, India and the Soviet Union came out in favour of the conclusion of a world treaty on the non-use of force in international relations.

The two sides recognised that there has been a significant relaxation of tensions in Europe and progress achieved in the development of relations and cooperation between the states of eastern and western Europe. In this connection they expressed the hope that

the process will be intensified and lead to military detente in Europe.

The two sides recognised that mutually beneficial cooperation among Asian states must be developed and extended in order to consolidate peace and stability in the region. To this end relations between states should be based on such universally accepted principles as renunciation of the use of force or threat of force, respect for each other's sovereignty and inviolability of frontiers, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, cooperation in economic and other fields on the basis of full equality, mutual benefit and the right of each people to choose their own political and social systems. Acceptance of these principles in inter-state relations would contribute to the transformation of Asia into a continent of durable peace and to the strengthening of peace in the whole world.

In reviewing the situation in South Asia, the two sides welcomed the success achieved in solving problems and differences through bilateral negotiations between the countries of the region. They recognised that this has led to significant improvement in the climate of good neighbourliness in the sub-continent. The two sides are convinced that the strengthening of the process of beneficial cooperation would release the resources and talents of the peoples in the area for constructive development, which in turn would make a useful contribution towards peace and stability in the region and help in the promotion of international peace,

Both sides warmly welcomed the admission of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the membership of the United Nations.

The two sides, reiterated their support for a just political settlement in West Asia, based on the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967, on the satisfaction of the just demands of the Arab people of Palestine including their legitimate and inalienable right to establish their own State, and on ensuring the right of all states of West Asia to independent existence and development. To achieve

these aims they are firmly in favour of the earliest resumption of the Geneva Peace Conference with the participation of all parties concerned including representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The two sides expressed concern over the continuing conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia and hoped for an early cessation and peaceful resolution of the conflict.

India and the Soviet Union condemned resolutely the minority racist regimes in the Republic of South Africa and Zimbabwe and the illegal occupation of Namibia by the South African Regime. They fully endorsed the demand for the unconditional and immediate transfer of power to representatives of

the majority in Zimbabwe, for the granting of independence to the people of Namibia and for an immediate end to the policy of apartheid and racism in the Republic of South Africa.

India and the Soviet Union are convinced of the increasingly significant contribution made by the non-aligned movement to the common struggle for the strengthening of universal peace and security of nations, against imperialism and aggression, for the elimination of the vestiges of colonialism, racial discrimination and the policy of apartheid, in defence of independence and freedom of all peoples and also for the establishment of the new international economic order on the basis of respect for national sovereignty, equality and mutual benefit.

During the exchange of views on the situation in the Indian Ocean, the two sides expressed their support for the desire of the peoples of the area to make the Indian Ocean a zone of peace. They called for the elimination of all existing foreign military bases from the Indian ocean and the prohibition of new ones.

The two sides reaffirm their resolve to work for the further strengthening of the United Nations and of its effectiveness in maintaining universal peace and security of

nations and in promoting international co-operation on the basis of the strict observance of the principles and purposes of the UN Charter.

The two sides exchanged views on the questions relating to the law of the sea and reiterated their intention to facilitate the achievement of agreement on a new convention of the law of the sea which would be on the whole acceptable to all states.

The Soviet leaders and people warmly welcomed the visit of the Prime Minister of India to the USSR. The two sides are convinced that this visit and the fruitful exchange of opinions held between the leaders of India and the Soviet Union proved to be a further testimony to the desire of both countries to continue to strengthen and develop Indo-Soviet friendship and many-sided cooperation, to broaden mutual understanding and trust between them.

RUSSIA INDIA USA LATVIA PERU VIETNAM ISRAEL SWITZERLAND MALI SOMALIA ETHIOPIA
SOUTH AFRICA ZIMBABWE NAMIBIA

Date : Oct 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

Discussions Relating to Law of Sea

The following is the text of a press release issued in New DOW on October 1977 when the British Minister Mr. Luard held discussions with the Laic Minister:

Mr. E. Luard, Minister of State in the British Foreign Office, called on the Law Minister, Shri Shanti Bhushan here today and discussed various issues relating to the law of the sea. The British Minister was

accompanied by British High Commissioner in Delhi, Mr. John Thompson.

While appreciating the results achieved so far, Mr. Luard expressed anxiety at the slow pace of progress in the settlement of outstanding issues. He said that it would both be in the interests of the developing as well as developed countries if an agreement was reached in the next session scheduled to meet in the spring of 1978 in Geneva.

Shri Shanti Bhushan informed the British Minister that he was in complete agreement with him for the need to speed up a convention so that no country was prompted to take unilateral action.

The Law Minister expressed the necessity for export committees to go into outstanding issues in depth and thrash out differences between the Group of 77 and the developed countries in advance so that an acceptable agreement could be reached in the next session of the law of the sea conference.

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USA SWITZERLAND

Date : Oct 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

ZAMBIA

Discussion on Trade

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 24, 1977 on the visit of Mr. James Mapoma, Zambian Commerce Minister, to India:

Trade matters of mutual interest were

discussed here this evening between India and Zambia, when the visiting Zambian Minister of Commerce, H.E. Mr. James Mapoma called on Shri Arif Beg, Minister of State for Commerce.

Both leaders stressed the need for further developing of trade relationship and envisaged increased cooperation between the two countries in the fields of science, technology and cultural activities. The importance of participation of India and Zambia in various joint collaborations was also emphasised which, it was felt, would be in the interest of both the countries.

Total trade turnover between India and Zambia during 1976-77 was of the order of Rs. 501.1 million. India imports mainly copper, zinc and lead from Zambia. India's exports to Zambia are primarily limited to engineering goods, export of transport equipment such as buses, bicycles, agricultural machinery and implements such as tractors, ploughs, etc., electric motors, generating sets, diesel engines and pumps. The other major items have been footwear, animal feeds, cloth manufactures etc. India has also been supplying some of the consumer items such as rice, spices.

In fact Zambia has emerged as the third leading importer of Indian merchandise amongst the entire non-Arab African countries where a number of quality Indian products are already well established in the Zambian market.

India has been negotiating the draft of an Indo-Zambia trade agreement with the Government of Zambia which is likely to be signed shortly. India has also entered into agreements with Zambia on economic and technical cooperation, cooperation in the field of science and technology, cultural cooperation and has also signed protocol on bilateral cooperation.

The Industrial Development Bank of India have also agreed to offer credit of Rs. 100 million on soft terms to Zambia with repayment period from 7 to 10 years.

ZAMBIA USA INDIA RUSSIA

Date : Oct 01, 1977

November

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TUNISIA UGANDA VIETNAM YUGOSLAVIA

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

AUSTRALIA

Joint Trade Committee Meeting

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 27, 1977 on the second Indo-Australian joint trade committee meeting:

The second meeting of the Indo-Australian joint trade committee which was held at New Delhi from November 23 to 25, 1977 have noted with satisfaction the up-turn in bilateral trade between the two countries in the last one year. In view of the many areas

of complementarity between the economies of the two countries, like mining and agriculture. and their geographical proximity, it was felt that there was considerable scope for further expansion of trade. In this connection the Australian side welcomed the recent trend of liberalisation of India's import policy,

The Australian side expressed keen interest in assisting India to build up scientific storage facilities for foodgrains in view of India's sizeable foodgrains reserves and mentioned that they have already offered as assistance some pre-fabricated flat bulk grain storage structures to India. Since Australia passed through the phase of change over from bag storage to bulk storage more recently, it was felt that their experience would be of special relevance to the Indian context.

PIONEERING ROLE

While lauding the pioneering role of Australia in granting preferential treatment to commodities from developing countries, India however expressed concern at the recent trend of creating growing protectionism which has adversely affected Indian exports of textiles, apparel and leather goods. The attention of the Australian side was also drawn to the difficulties faced by exporters of Indian handicrafts, handlooms and hand-made footwear in view of extremely rigid interpretation of definition of handicrafts by customs authorities in Australia. While showing understanding of the socioeconomic importance of the handicraft, industry in the Indian scene, the Australians explained the difficulties faced by their domestic industries which had compelled them to take recourse to restrictive measures. It was, however, mentioned that the unit value of hand-made footwear entitled to duty free and quota free entry into Australia has been now raised from A\$ 2.50 to A\$ 3.00.

Both the sides agreed to devise ways for ensuring closer and frequent contacts between the business interests of the two countries. The Australian side also agreed to provide all possible assistance to India in

Conducting market surveys of commodities of export interest to India.

JOINT INDUSTRIAL VENTURES

There has not been many Indo-Australian joint industrial ventures so far. It was, however, hoped that the visit of the Australian Mining Equipment and Services Trade Mission would make a good beginning in this direction. With the greater exposure of Australian businessmen to India's industrial capabilities, the chances of closer collaboration between the two countries were expected to grow.

The Indian delegation to the talks was led by Shri Mahesh Prasad, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and the Australian delegation was led by Mr. J. R. Gardner, Assistant Secretary, Department of Overseas Trade.

Australia is one of the major trading partners of India. India's exports to Australia mainly comprise of cotton manufactures, jute manufactures, clothing, fruits and nuts,

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tea, coffee, fish and fish preparations, etc., and machinery other than electric, footwear, floor coverings, tapestries, and pearls, precious and semi-precious stones. India's imports from Australia consist of wool, wheat, zinc, pig lead, iron and steel, machinery other than electric and animal oils and fats.

India's exports to Australia have increased from Rs. 244.6 million in 1970-71 to Rs. 612 million in 1974-75. The main items which contributed to this increase have been cotton manufactures, fruits and nuts (excl. oil nuts), coffee, tea, machinery other than electric and footwear.

India's imports from Australia which stood at Rs. 365.8 million in 1970-71 have also risen from Rs. 438.1 million in 1973-74 to Rs. 1184.8 million in 1974-75.

Volume No

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AUSTRALIA

Australian Trade Mission Calls on Shri Mohan Dharia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 28, 1977 on the visit of an Australian Mining Equipment and Service Trade Mission:

An Australian Mining Equipment and Services Trade Mission led by Mr. J. N. Beath, Marketing Manager of a leading Australian mining company, called on the Union Minister for Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation, Shri Mohan Dharia, in New Delhi on November 28, 1977. They discussed the possibilities of production, cooperation and joint ventures between India and Australia.

The delegation, comprising firms engaged in the mining machinery and equipment fields, and mining consultants, is sponsored by the Australian Department of Overseas Trade. The Mission is here to investigate the scope for Australia's involvement in India's mineral development and to explore the possibilities of collaboration in the Indian industries and projects involving third countries.

JOINT COLLABORATION

Shri Dharia explained to the delegation the Government's policy regarding production, cooperation and joint collaboration with other countries. He pointed out that the visit of the Mission would result in greater exposure of Australian businessmen to India's industrial capabilities and chances of

closer collaborations between the two countries would grow.

AUSTRALIA USA INDIA

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

Shri Kundu's Statement on Refugees

The following is the text of the reply to the Calling Attention Notice in the Rajya Sabha on November 23, 1977 by the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri Samarendra Kundu said:

The Government of India have seen newspaper reports stating that recently there has been a large scale influx of Bangladeshi nationals into India. These reports do not appear to be based on facts and are generally exaggerated-

Ever since partition, there has been some migration of the erstwhile Pakistani and later Bangladeshi nationals into the neighbouring states of India. Historically also there have been movements of population, particularly of people belonging to the same ethnic group living in this area.

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SCALE OF INFLUX

As the House is aware, there was a large scale influx of refugees into India during the liberation war in Bangladesh. Most of these refugees returned to their country after Bangladesh emerged as a sovereign national entity. Since then, Bangladesh nationals who have been crossing over to India are

either those who come with valid documents or those who enter illegally. Those who enter or stay in India illegally are not, therefore, treated as refugees.

The Indo-Bangladesh border is more than 4,000 kms. long running through different terrains at a number of places. Despite the arrangement made by the Government for preventing infiltration it is impossible to put every stretch of this long border under surveillance and intercept each and every infiltrator. Moreover, a number of Bangladeshi nationals who come to India with valid travel documents do not return to their country and stay here illegally. It is difficult to trace these illegal migrants because, among others, of their common ethnic origin. It is, therefore, extremely difficult to know the exact number of persons who have entered or are staying in India illegally. However, according to the statistics available with the Government obtained through Central and State agencies, there is no evidence of any large scale influx recently of Bangladeshi nationals into India. The total number of Bangladeshi nationals who were intercepted and asked to go back from January to October this year was 7,014. This figure is approximately the same as for the corresponding period of 1976 and significantly lower than the figures for 1974 and 1975.

MIGRANTS To ADJOINING STATES

Whereas most of the migrants to the adjoining states of West Bengal and Tripura belong to the minority communities in Bangladesh, in the migration to Assam and Meghalaya Muslims outnumber others. In 1977 so far Muslim migrants to Assam outnumber others by 4 to 1.

These figures have their limitations in that they do not take into account those who enter or stay in India undetected. However, for want of more adequate information, we have no alternative but to rely on these figures as an indication of the trend of the migration of Bangladeshi nationals into India.

The factors responsible for migration

are varied. Historical contacts- between people along the border, and particularly ethnic similarity, has all along been an important factor. Developments inside Bangladesh having the effect of generating or accentuating sense of insecurity of particular sections of the population in Bangladesh, economic distress, activities of persons who make it their business to lure people out of the country etc. are some of the causes of such migration. Factors such as sowing and harvesting of crops, attraction of trade and commerce and prospects of employment sometimes account for fluctuations in the figures of migration.

It is basically the responsibility of the Bangladesh Government to prevent migration outside their country. The Government of India, however, on a number of occasions and at different levels sought to impress upon them that it is primarily their duty to check or arrest the flow of migration to India.

STRICT VIGILANCE

The Government of India on their part are maintaining strict vigilance along the border. Field units of central agencies and the State Governments concerned have been requested that they should, in addition to their regular periodic reports, inform the Government of India urgently whenever they come across any specific case of a substantial increase in the number of migrants.

Before concluding, it is important to underline that any attempt to treat illegal entrants as refugees and to exaggerate this problem can have serious implications for Indo-Bangladesh relations and for maintaining harmony and peace in the two countries. This can hasten the process which we all intend to arrest. I would, therefore, like to urge Hon'ble members to observe restraint on this matter and to try to appreciate the problem in its proper perspective.

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BANGLADESH INDIA PAKISTAN USA

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

Official Statements on Sharing of Ganga Waters at Farakka

The following is the text of the statement by the Prune Minister, Shri Morarji Desai in Lok Sabha and Foreign Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Rajya Sabha on November 14, 1977 regarding Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India, and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh an sharing of the Ganga Waters at Farakka and or augmenting its flows:

Sir, the Hon'ble Members of this House would have gathered from the press that an agreement between India and Bangladesh on the sharing of the Ganga Waters at Farakka and on augmenting its flows was finally negotiated and signed at the Ministerial level in Dacca on the 5th November, 1977. I place on the Table of the House a copy of the Agreement which, in accordance with the understanding reached with the Bangladesh Government, was released upon its signature. I must crave the indulgence of the House for the length of this statement. Apart from the importance and the complexity of the problems raised during the negotiations, I have to cover in it most of the criticism which has been voiced regarding this Agreement and consequently it has become necessary to explain the position in its historical perspective and the facts involved. The historic nature of the Agreement and its extraordinary significance for relations between India and Bangladesh and for sub-continental politics have been recognised almost universally abroad and by broad sections of public opinion in India. With the signing of this Agreement and its simultaneous entry

into force a major problem which had bedevilled relations between the two countries and vitiated the political atmosphere in the subcontinent for over 25 years has been resolved.

COMPLEXITY OF PROBLEM

The Hon'ble Members are aware of the long history and complexity of the Farakka problem. The issues involved in the negotiations of the Agreement affected political, economic and cultural interests and sensitivities on both sides. We were seeking to ensure that while not reducing the flow available for flushing the Hooghly below reasonable limit, arrangements were made at the same time for augmenting the flows in order adequately to meet our upstream and downstream requirements. From the Bangladesh side, it was argued that they had to protect the existing consumptive uses and avoid adverse effects on the country's ecology and economy in the future. They further contended that in order to preserve the ecological balance the entire flow of 55,000 cusecs during the leanest period of the dry season should be maintained uninterrupted. The negotiations were necessarily complicated and protracted in order to reconcile these disparate and conflicting objectives from both sides.

RIGHTS OF RIPARIANS

The negotiating problem was further compounded because international law on the rights of riparians is yet to be codified and thus there is no universally recognised criteria to go by in determining equitable sharing. Even though the Helsinki Rules of 1966, which have received broad acceptance by countries as a model of international law, mention some factors to be taken into account, it has been generally recognised that considering the unique features of each international river, equitable sharing can be determined only through bilateral (or multilateral) negotiations between the riparian states concerned. And in bilateral negotiations of this nature, it is not possible to arrive at an agreement on the basis of a precise quantitative determination of the rights and entitlements of each co-riparian. A settle-

ment through negotiations is essentially an exercise in the art of compromising from extreme positions taken by the negotiating parties. In this case it involved balancing between differing uses and priorities in the utilisation of waters. The initial position of Bangladesh was the maintenance of the historical flow which amounted to a lower riparian exercising a veto on utilisation of waters by the upper riparian. India's initial position was to be able to withdraw an optimum flow of 40,000 cusecs in order to have maximum beneficial effect for the restoration of the Hooghly river to its normal health and thus for the preservation and improvement of the Calcutta port.

Moreover, a bilateral agreement cannot be based exclusively on the considerations of

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rights and entitlements, particularly in a situation of the kind that prevails in the lower Ganga basin where during the lean season there is not just enough water to meet the requirements, let alone the entitlements of both the countries. The Agreement, therefore, had to be based on the principles of shared sacrifices and mutual accommodation without affecting the rights and entitlements of either country.

POLITICAL IMPERATIVE

The Hon'ble Members would also appreciate that the negotiations involved not only the sharing of waters between the two countries - nor only augmentation of its flows - but also the political imperative of improving relations with our closest neighbour, which is an acid test of the effectiveness and credibility of our entire foreign policy and for that matter of the principles which India has always advocated should guide relations among nations.

In its attempt to reach an agreement on the Farakka problem, this Government did not have a clean slate to write afresh. The then Government of Pakistan and later the Bangladesh Government never accepted our right to go ahead with the construction and

commissioning of the Farakka Barrage Project without reaching an agreement with them on the sharing of the Ganga waters. Inter-governmental consultations and negotiations have been held ever since 1951 when preliminary investigations of the project were in progress. In their Joint Declaration of May 1974, the Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh noted that the Farakka Barrage would be commissioned by the end of 1974, but at the same time they agreed that a mutually acceptable allocation of the water available during periods of minimum flow in the Ganga should be arrived at before commissioning the Barrage. Thus, the Hon'ble Members will note that there was already a basic decision taken by the previous government that withdrawal of waters by India would follow agreement on allocations with Bangladesh.

The Barrage was commissioned in April 1975 after an agreement with the then Government of President Mujib for withdrawals by India in the range of 11,000 to 16,000 cusecs for the period of 21st April to 31st May. Unfortunately, no agreement for the dry season of 1975-76 could be reached. Though the Government of India took the view that the April 1975 Agreement was valid only till the end of May 1975, and did not bind it in anyway so far as withdrawals after that date were concerned, the Bangladesh Government's position was that its share covering the period 21st April to 31st May should in no circumstances fall below the quantum i.e. 39,000 - 44,000 cusecs agreed with the previous Government to be released for Bangladesh.

MOVES TO INTERNATIONALISE ISSUE

When no agreement was reached for the dry season of 1975-76 and when India started drawing close to the Feeder Canal capacity, the Bangladesh Government made a number of moves to internationalise the Farakka issue, alleging unilateral withdrawal by India. The issue was taken to the Islamic Conference in Istanbul, to the Non-aligned Summit Conference in Colombo and finally in the form of a formal complaint, to the 31st Session of the United Nations General

Assembly. The General Assembly concluded its consideration of the item proposed by the Bangladesh Government with the adoption of a consensus statement which, among others, incorporated the decision of the two Governments to resume bilateral negotiations urgently at the Ministerial level. This was in keeping with the stand all along taken by India that bilateral problems can be best resolved bilaterally, but it placed on us the responsibility to negotiate purposefully. Accordingly, four rounds of Ministerial level talks were held between December 1976 and April 1977. A breakthrough in these negotiations was reached between the leaders of the Indian Delegation i.e. our Defence Minister and the leader of Bangladesh, the details of which were to be elaborated in official level talks and incorporated in a comprehensive agreement between the two countries. An agreement was finally concluded and initialled at the end of the third round of the official level talks on 30th September 1977. These negotiations had aroused great expectations not only in the two countries but in view of the previous involvement of the General Assembly and particularly friendly non-aligned countries, also in the international community. The conclusion of the Agreement was therefore, widely regarded as a vindication of the trust placed on the sagacity and reasonableness of the two countries

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and an example of how developing countries can negotiate to resolve problems affecting their development.

IMPROVEMENT OF CALCUTTA PORT

The Farakka Barrage Project has been designed mainly for the protection and improvement of Calcutta Port. No one in India can minimise the importance of this Port for the city of Calcutta and for the economy of the entire eastern region on which depends a vast segment of our population. This Agreement contains the best possible arrangement for realising the objective of the Farakka Project and at the same time meeting the requirements of Bangladesh during the period of distress.

The Members of the House are aware that a number of estimates in the past, including the Farakka Barrage Project document which was approved in 1960, had envisaged that the project would be fully justified even after it was possible to withdraw upto 20,000 cusecs of water during mid-March to mid-May. This and other data were exchanged with the then Government of Pakistan even though it was made clear that they were provisional in nature and subject to modifications in the light of further studies and model experiments. The Agreement concluded provides for a withdrawal of 20,500 to 26,750 cusecs during March-May as well as for a progressive increase in India's share when the flows are above the minimum level of 55,000 cusecs during 3 out of 4 years based on 25 years' observed data. The minimum withdrawal by India is also almost the double of the minimum withdrawal which was permissible under the April 1975 Agreement. India has also been able to secure in this Agreement near optimum level of withdrawals that is 35,000 to 40,000 cusecs for 8 months during the year i.e. from June to January. The Agreement also provides for a guarantee to Bangladesh of 80 per cent of its share for each 10 day period. This gives a margin of 20 per cent which would make for administrative convenience and minimise the problem of daily questioning of variations in the flows arriving at Farakka.

HYDROLOGY

Hydrology is not an exact science and, therefore, hydrodynamic model studies are not capable of predicting effects of withdrawal within negligible margins of error. However, on the basis of both model experiments and prototype studies of actual effects so far carried out by Indian engineers, it can be stated that the schedule of withdrawals agreed upon in the agreement, would enable us to arrest further deterioration in the Port of Calcutta and, with the help of such other measures as dredging, river training, prevention of soil erosion, etc. to bring about improvement in the Port. The need to adopt these complementary measures in addition to ensuring maximum amount of head-water

supply. has been recognised throughout the period of the formulation and execution of the Farakka Barrage Project.

The improvement of Calcutta Port as a result of headwater supply from the Farakka Barrage is bound to take time and cannot be achieved too quickly. Meanwhile, as the nation has progressed and as agriculture has modernised, the demand for consumption and non-consumptive use, particularly for irrigation, of the Ganga waters has increased and is likely to continue to increase even more rapidly in future. Therefore, rational arrangement for increasing the availability of water through some long-term scheme is imperative for meeting both our upstream and downstream requirements even aside from the needs of Bangladesh. A long-term solution is as important, if not more, for India as it is for Bangladesh and this could best be achieved with the co-operation of both the countries.

GOOD FAITH

In the Agreement, the two Governments have not only agreed to study all available long-term proposals, but they have also set

- time limit of three years to complete such
- study. The Agreement provides for the two Governments to select in good faith a scheme or schemes on the basis of the recommendations of the study and to take necessary measures to implement it as speedily as possible.

We have thus accepted the short-term sacrifice involved in the arrangement for sharing because it is also linked to measures for finding a solution to the long-term problem. The Agreement is valid for an initial period of 5 years and provides for a review after 3 years entailing consideration of the working, impact and progress in its im-

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plementation, including progress towards long-term solution.

The Agreement, we hope, would not only lead to a solution of the long-term problem

of augmenting the flow of the Ganga, but would also pave the way for the optimum utilisation of the water resources of the region as a whole. The activation of the Joint Rivers Commission under the terms of the Agreement should result in increasing cooperation between India and Bangladesh for flood control and in other problem areas affecting the interests of the other party.

LONG YEARS OF DIFFERENCES

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in considering this Agreement one should cast one's mind back to the long years of differences, suspicions and even hostility that have prevailed in our subcontinent. One should also remember that India is a nation which by its tradition and the principles that it has upheld both nationally and internationally is committed to policies of cooperation and friendly relations with other nations. This Government has recognised that for the sake of our own development and the effectiveness of our foreign policy, the crucial test is whether or not we could make this subcontinent free of friction, allowing us to concentrate our resources on our primary task of development and the welfare of our people. If we are convinced that India's own interest is also served in the prosperity of our neighbours, then we cannot but make serious attempt to resolve such problems which affect development in both countries.

We were also committed to resolving the Farakka issue bilaterally, without the involvement or interference of a third country or party. In reaching this agreement through bilateral negotiations and, in particular, by providing for settlement of differences and disputes strictly within bilateral framework, we have demonstrated that all issues, however complex, between close neighbours, can be resolved bilaterally in a spirit of shared sacrifice and mutual accommodation.

LARGER SPECTRUM OF RELATIONSHIP

The approach and spirit which have made this Agreement possible should, if applied to the larger spectrum of our relations with Bangladesh, lead to an ever-widening

cooperation between the two countries, both bilaterally and in multilateral forums. This should also contribute to the furtherance of our objectives of promoting peace and development in the subcontinent and of working together towards a better world order.

With anticipated increase in demands for water for diverse uses, it was clear that as time went by, the problem would become more complex and intractable. This would have not only involved tremendous opportunity costs for the two countries in not taking timely action to solve the long-term problems, but would have also made it extremely difficult to make arrangements for short-term sharing. Therefore, if an agreement was to be reached, the common interests of the two countries lay in reaching it sooner rather than later.

The Farakka problem has been a national issue in Bangladesh transcending political parties and regimes. All the political parties and groups in Bangladesh have been united in demanding much larger shares and a speedy settlement of the dispute.

NON-PARTISAN NATIONAL ISSUE

In India also, the Farakka problem must be seen as a non-partisan national issue. We have gone on to finalise the agreement respecting the commitment made by the previous government. May I seek the indulgence of the House to treat this Agreement in the same spirit sinking inter-party differences and in the wider perspective of the overall objective of our foreign policy and specifically the well-being of the two countries?

BANGLADESH INDIA USA FINLAND PAKISTAN TURKEY SRI LANKA CENTRAL AFRICAN
REPUBLIC

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

The following is the text of agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on sharing of the Ganga waters at Farakka and on augmenting its flows signed in Dacca by Shri Surjit Singh Barnala, for the Government of the Republic of India and Rear Admiral Mushar-

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raf Hussain Khan, for the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on November 5, 1977:

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH.

DETERMINED to promote and strengthen their relations of friendship and good neighbourliness,

INSPIRED by the common desire of promoting the well-being of their peoples,

BEING desirous of sharing by mutual agreement the waters of the international rivers flowing through the territories of the two countries and of making the optimum utilisation of the water resources of their region by joint efforts,

RECOGNISING that the need of making an interim arrangement for sharing of the Ganga waters at Farakka in a spirit of mutual accommodation and the need for a solution of the long-term problem of augmenting the flows of the Ganga are in the mutual interests of the people's of the two countries,

BEING desirous of finding a fair solution of the question before them, Without affecting the rights and entitlements of either country other than those covered by this

Agreement, or establishing any general principles of law or precedent,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

A. Arrangements for sharing of the waters of the Ganga at Farakka.

ARTICLE I

The quantum of waters agreed to be released by India to Bangladesh will be at Farakka.

ARTICLE II

(1) The sharing between India and Bangladesh of the Ganga Waters at Farakka from the 1st January to the 31st May every year Will be with reference to the quantum shown in column 2 of the Schedule annexed hereto which is based on 75 per cent availability calculated from the recorded flows of the Ganga at Farakka from 1948 to 1973.

(11) India shall release to Bangladesh waters by 10-day periods in quantum shown in column 4 of the Schedule:

Provided that if the actual-availability at Farakka of the Ganga waters during a 10-day period is higher or lower than the quantum shown in column 2 of the Schedule it shall be shared in the proportion applicable to that period:

Provided further that if during a particular 10-day period, the Ganga flows at Farakka come down to such a level that the share of Bangladesh is lower than 80 per cent of the value shown in column 4, the release of waters to Bangladesh during that 10-day period shall not fall below 80 per cent of the value shown in column 4.

ARTICLE III

The waters released to Bangladesh at Farakka under Article 1 shall not be reduced below Farakka except for reasonable uses or waters, not exceeding 200 cusecs, by India between Farakka and the point on the Ganga where both its banks are in Bangladesh.

ARTICLE IV

A Committee consisting of the representatives nominated by the two Governments (hereinafter called the Joint Committee) shall be constituted. The Joint Committee shall set up suitable teams at Farakka and Hardinge Bridge to observe and record at Farakka the daily flows below Farakka Barrage and in the Feeder Canal, as well as at Hardinge Bridge.

ARTICLE V

The Joint Committee shall decide its own procedure and method of functioning.

ARTICLE VI

The Joint Committee shall submit to the two Governments all data collected by it and shall also submit a yearly report to both the Governments.

ARTICLE VII

The Joint Committee shall be responsible for implementing the arrangements contained in this part of the Agreement and examining any difficulty arising out of the implementation of the above arrangements and of the operation of Farakka Barrage.

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Any difference or dispute arising in this regard, if not resolved by the Joint Committee, shall be referred to a panel of an equal number of Indian and Bangladeshi experts nominated by the two Governments. If the difference or dispute still remains unresolved, it shall be referred to the two Governments which shall meet urgently at the appropriate level to resolve it by mutual discussion and failing that by such other arrangements as they may mutually agree upon.

B. Long-Term Arrangements

ARTICLE VIII

The two Governments recognise the need to cooperate with each other in finding a solution to the long-term problem of augmenting the flows of the Ganga during the

dry season.

ARTICLE IX

The Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission established by the two Governments in 1972 shall carry out investigation and study of schemes relating to the augmentation of the dry season flows of the Ganga, proposed or to be proposed by either Government with a view to finding a solution which is economical and feasible. It shall submit its recommendations to the two Governments within a period of three years.

ARTICLE X

The two Governments shall consider and agree upon a scheme or schemes, taking into account the recommendations of the Joint Rivers Commission, and take necessary measures to implement it or them as speedily as possible.

ARTICLE XI

Any difficulty, difference or dispute arising from or with regard to this part of the Agreement, if not resolved by the Joint Rivers Commission, shall be referred to the two Governments which shall meet urgently at the appropriate level to resolve it by mutual discussion.

C. Review and Duration

ARTICLE XII

The provisions of this Agreement will be implemented by both parties in good faith. During the period for which the Agreement continues to be in force in accordance with Article 15 of the Agreement, the quantum of waters agreed to be released to Bangladesh at Farakka in accordance with this Agreement shall not be reduced.

ARTICLE XIII

The Agreement will be reviewed by the two Governments at the expiry of three years from the date of coming into force of this Agreement. Further reviews shall take place six months before the expiry of this Agreement or as may be agreed upon bet-

ween the two Governments.

ARTICLE XIV

The review or reviews referred to in Article 13 shall entail consideration of the working, impact, implementation and progress of the arrangements contained in parts A and B of this Agreement.

ARTICLE XV

This Agreement shall enter into force upon signature and shall remain in force for a period of five years from the date of its coming into force. It may be extended further for a specified period by mutual agreement in the light of the reviews referred to in Article 13.

IN WITNESS THEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto by the respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE in duplicate at Dacca on November 5, 1977 in the Hindi, Bengali and English languages. In the event of any conflict between the texts, the English text shall prevail.

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SCHEDULE

(Vide Article 2(i))

SHAPING OF WATERS AT FARAKKA BETWEEN THE 1ST JANUARY AND THE 31ST MAY EVERY YEAR

2	3	4		
Period		Flows reaching	Withdrawal	
Release to		by India	Bangladesh	
Farakka (based		at Farakka		
on 75% avail-				
ability from ob-				
erved data				
(1948-73)				
Cusecs	Cusecs	Cusecs		
January	1-10	98,500	40,000	58,500
	11 - 20	89,750	38,500	51,250

	21 - 31	82,500	35,000	47,500
February	1 - 10	79,250	33,000	46,250
	11 - 20	74,000	31,500	42,500
	21 - 28/29	70,000	30,750	39,250
March	1-10	65,250	26,750	38,500
	11 - 20	63,500	25,500	38,000
	21 - 31	61,000	25,000	36,000
April	1-10	59,000	24,000	35,000
	11 - 20	55,500	20,750	34,750
	21 - 30	55,000	20,500	34,500
May	1 - 10	56,500	21,500	35,000
	11 - 20	59,250	24,000	35,250
	21 - 31	65,500	26,750	38,750

BANGLADESH INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 7, 1977 on the protocol on inland water transit and trade, between India-Bangladesh dele-

gations:

The delegation of representatives of India and Bangladesh have recommended extension of the period of protocol on inland water transit and trade upto September 27, 1979. The protocol was signed in 1972 for a period of five years. The protocol would now be co-extensive with the trade agreement between the two Governments. The extension will be effected by exchange of letters

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between the two Governments. The protocol provides for a uniform documentation for vessels, arrangement for settlement, clearance and remittance, uniform toll charges of vessels. Both the delegations expressed satisfaction for the spirit of co-operation and mutual understanding which was shown during these five-day talks which began here on November 2, 1977. They also hoped that the traffic and trade between the two countries would grow and flourish.

The delegations of India and Bangladesh were led by Shri P. B. Mahajan, Joint Secretary (Transport) in the Ministry of Shipping and Transport of the Government of India and Mr. S. S. M. Lutful Huq, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Communications, Ports, shipping & IWT Division of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Central Inland Water Transport Corporation is operating services between Calcutta and Assam and Calcutta & Bangladesh, through Bangladesh. Similarly Bangladesh vessels also ply between Calcutta and Bangladesh.

BANGLADESH INDIA

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

The following speech was made by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs of India, at the function of the Indo-Bhutan friendship society on November 20, 1977 during his visit to Bhutan from November 19 to 21, 1977:

Your Royal Highness Ashi Dechhen, Excellencies, Ministers of Royal Government of Bhutan. Friends,

This is my first visit to Bhutan. The warm welcome accorded to me and my party and the friendly smiling faces all around, the bracing mountain climate and the calm atmosphere of Thimphu have left an indelible impression on me.

In April this year, when His Majesty the King of Bhutan came to Delhi within a few days of our historic elections, the leaders of our new Janata Government were very happy to receive him and have a cordial discussion, on a wide variety of matters of mutual interest. It gave us very great satisfaction, so soon after we had assumed office, to meet and to get to know personally for ourselves the qualities of your young Ruler. He impressed us with his dedication to Bhutan's interests, to the growth of India-Bhutan Friendship and to the deepening of mutual understanding between India and Bhutan.

NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS

My visit here within six months of His Majesty's visit is a symbol, I hope, of the fact that the new Janata Government in India attach utmost importance to the improvement of relations between India and our friendly neighbour, Bhutan. I am here to convey our Prime Minister's personal interest in seeing to it that relations between India and Bhutan continue to improve to mutual benefit, on the basis of Bhutan's

sovereignty and independence, and to further examine how India can contribute towards Bhutan's genuine national aspirations for peace, progress and prosperity. As our Prime Minister had made clear to His Majesty during his April visit, the emphasis of the Janata Government is on a policy which would attempt to remove the scope for misunderstanding in our relations with our neighbours, avoid the build-up of any situation which would lead to irritants at the political level and thus contribute to the further consolidation of the basis of mutual trust and confidence in each other. With

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Bhutan, we have special relations based on close geographical proximity, a long and open common border which is entirely peaceful, and a long historical, religious and cultural affinity.

It has perhaps become a cliché in western publications on Bhutan, to refer to Bhutan as a Shangri La. This is indicative also of a feeling of which we are all aware, that the western world is paying the price of too much development too soon. The consequences are social disorder, crime pollution, break-down of the family juvenile delinquency and a host of other things. It, therefore, comes easily to be nostalgic of distant lands and especially of distant people who live in unspoilt surroundings. The other side of Bhutan is perhaps not noted. Bhutan is facing the challenges of coping with development, economic growth, rising expectations of the Bhutanese people and modern technology. Under the wise and mature guidance of His Majesty this challenge is being undertaken without abandoning the firm roots of Bhutanese tradition and without abandoning the Bhutanese way of life. This aspect of Bhutan can be appreciated only by those people who have an understanding of the stability, maturity and flexibility of traditional societies such as our two societies. Our two societies have been inspired through the millenia by this deep rooted faith in our values. Such faith leads us to the conclusion of borrowing selectively the advantages of modern Organisation and technology while,

at the same time, placing them at the services of our values, based on religion, culture and old civilisation. The question, therefore, of slavish imitation of other systems, other technologies or other penanceas for growth is, to this extent, irrelevant. We are confident, therefore, that while keeping its windows open for fresh breezes to be let in, the Bhutane house will never be swept away.

GOOD-NEIGHBOURLY RELATIONS

For the first time in its history perhaps, the sub-continent of India is no longer being viewed by the outside world as an area of tension. We have taken several steps to improve relations with Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. All this would carry conviction, we hope, that the Janata Party means what it say, that meaningful steps can be taken to consolidate the tradition of good-neighbourly relations, which India already enjoy with Bhutan, so that together, India and Bhutan could concentrate on removing the real problems of poverty, disease and ignorance.

We have no doubt in our minds that as a sovereign independent country under the able leadership of His Majesty, Bhutan and India enjoy and must continue to enjoy, close relations of inter-dependence which the facts of geography and consequential geopolitics, historical links, culture and religion, trade, economy and development of natural resources, etc., clearly compel. Linked with this is a common appreciation and understanding of the fast-changing and evolving situation in the international field dictated by political and economic circumstances, which are beyond our control. As mentioned earlier by our leaders and also quite often mentioned by His Majesty, the basis for our relationship should be the principle of trust and confidence, understanding of each other's aspirations and policies and sensitivity to each other's interests. At no stage can we take each other for granted, just as at no stage can any Government of India not be fully committed to the development, progress and prosperity of the people of Bhutan. Our Prime Minister's approach to Bhutan is very clear: Bhutan should gradually be enabled

to play a role in the international stage commensurate to its development, in close harmony with India. As long as both Bhutan and India look at the high Himalayas from the same direction and if in nothing that we do we harm each other's interests, any problems of a temporary or transient nature, which are inevitably present considering the variety of fields over which we interact, can easily be resolved. What is necessary is that we keep our eyes firmly fixed on the permanent and immutable and not get distracted by the transient and temporary factors.

His MAJESTY'S VISIT

As a result of His Majesty's visit to India in April, and the continuing dialogue at all levels between India and Bhutan, the Janata Government now has a good idea of the various problems existing, and how best to solve them. In the talks that I have had here with His Majesty, Their Royal Highness the Representatives of His Majesty in the Ministries of Finance and Development, Ministers and senior officials of the Royal Government, I am convinced that with the

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spirit of accommodation and understanding that is being shown, any problems that may exist will be easily resolved. We look forward to this dialogue continuing and in this context would greatly welcome a visit by His Majesty to India.. at his convenience.

I am very happy to see that the Indo-Bhutan Friendship society is playing an active role in promoting friendship between the Bhutanese and Indian peoples. In fact it is a society such as this, at the non-official level, which can contribute more than officials, to keeping the substance of our interdependent relationship alive and active. Under your guidance, Your Royal Highness, I am confident that the Society will play an even more useful and constructive role in furthering the understanding and friendly feelings between the peoples of India and Bhutan.

CONTRIBUTION To DEVELOPMENT

In the audience here I find a large number of highly qualified Indians, who have the privilege to come to Bhutan to share their experiences with the people of Bhutan. While this is a matter of great pride for us in India equally we should realise that it is our duty to make as many friends in Bhutan as we can, work with dedication and contribute to Bhutan's development. Indeed in the very nature of our friendship I hope my Indian brethren in Bhutan would also inform the Bhutanese clearly about the mistakes that we have committed in India, in our respective fields, in order to see that Bhutanese resources would be utilized in an optimum manner for the good of Bhutan. Indeed there are many negative examples in India from which the Bhutanese could also profit. Seriously speaking, however, I am confident that our Indian brethren in Bhutan would always conduct themselves in a manner which would bring credit to India that they represent in Bhutan.

BHUTAN INDIA PERU USA BANGLADESH NEPAL CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PAKISTAN

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Delegation Calls on Industry Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 30, 1977 on the visit to India of a Czechoslovakian delegation led by Mr. Ing. Miroslav Simonovsky:

Matters relating to Indo-Czech industrial delegation led by Mr. Ing. Miroslav Simonovsky, First Deputy Minister in the Federal Ministry of General Engineering, Czechoslovakia, called on Shri George Fernandes,

Union Minister of Industry in New Delhi on November 30. The Ambassador for Czechoslovakia in India was also present.

During the 45-minute meeting, the two sides discussed the possibilities of export of tractors to third countries and it was agreed that there was considerable scope for exporting tractors made by the Hindustan Machine Tools with Czech assistance to developing countries and also to neighbouring countries. The Czechoslovak organisations are collaborating with the HMT for the manufacture of tractors.

The scope for cooperation in electronics, machine tools and textile machinery including supply of specialised machine tools equipment to industries in India was also discussed.

The utilisation of engineering capacities developed in India as well as of expertise of man-power for turn-key projects in third countries also figured during the talks. It was agreed that there was scope for coordinating the implementation of such projects with the Government of Czechoslovakia.

The delegation has also visited several projects in India for negotiating specific agreements for industrial cooperation includ-

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ing exports of engineering components from India to Czechoslovakia.

TALKS WITH MOHAN DHARIA

Mr. Ing Miroslav Simonovsky called on Shri Mohan Dharia, Union Minister of Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation, on November 28, 1977.

During half an hour long discussions, the two leaders agreed that there was hardly any problem between the two countries as far as trade was concerned. A hope was expressed that trade exchanges between India and Czechoslovakia would further grow with the passage of time. From India's side it was pointed out that this country was interested in further growth of bilateral trade

which should not only be maintained at the present level. In this context, it was pointed out that new areas of cooperation and joint ventures will have to be covered by the two countries and that the visit of Czech delegation would enable further probing into such fields. The Czech leader agreed with this view point and felt that the friendship between different countries was measured by the volume of exchange of goods between them and was firmly of the opinion that the same should grow between India and Czechoslovakia as well.

Trade between India and Czechoslovakia is governed by bilateral trade and payments agreement. The current agreement was signed in December 1974 and is valid for a period of five years from January 1, 1975. Czechoslovakia is India's third largest trading partner amongst the East European countries after USSR and Poland.

The major items of our imports are steel and steel products, machine tools, urea, newsprint, seamless pipes, tubes and casings, components, spares, tyres and raw materials for tractors, capital goods, organic and inorganic chemicals, hops, textile machinery and components for Czechoslovak-assisted projects.

Major items in India's exports are de-oiled cakes, coffee, pepper, iron ore, jute manufactures, tanned and semi-tanned hides and skins, finished leather, wool and woollen synthetic mixed fabrics, readymade garments, mica, manganese ore, engineering goods, castor oil, shellac and cotton yarn.

NORWAY SLOVAKIA USA INDIA RUSSIA POLAND

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 27, 1977 on the fifth meeting of the Indo-EEG joint Commission:

The joint commission set up under the Commercial Cooperation Agreement between India and the Community of December 1973, held its fifth session in Brussels on 22nd and 23rd November 1977 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Manfred Caspari, Deputy Director General for External Relations of the Commission, who also led the Community delegation. The Indian delegation was led by Dr. P. C. Alexander, Secretary to the Government of India.

The joint commission reviewed the economic situation in the Community and India, and welcomed the favourable development of India's trade balance with the community. Dr. Alexander emphasised that India's current trade surplus was the result of better economic management and certain short-term factors. Even so, the Indian Government was actively liberalising imports which would open up opportunities for increased Community exports to India. However, the Indian Government looked with considerable concern at certain signs of protectionist tendencies in world trade. For the Community, Mr. Caspari confirmed the political commit-

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ment to maintain an open-trade policy and to avoid blocking access to the Community market. In this connection, he referred to the substantial increase in Indian exports to the Community over the last two years.

The joint commission examined the report of the preparatory sub-Commission on the various activities undertaken since the fourth session of the joint commission in October 1976 for the purpose of facilitating cooperation between Indian and Community firms. The joint commission reviewed the

possibilities in such sectors as engineering goods, leather and leather goods, tea, tobacco, animal feed stuffs and fisheries. The two sides explored the possibilities of long-term cooperation on coal, iron ore and aluminium.

TRADE PROMOTION

The joint commission reviewed the trade promotion programme for 1977. In the light of the experience gained so far, the joint commission agreed to intensify activities within the trade promotion field.

The joint commission had a first exchange of views on the report which it had commissioned on joint project planning and which identifies micro-sectors where potentials exist for increased trade and cooperation between the two economies on the basis of comparative advantage. Both sides expressed their favourable reactions to the General analysis and conclusions. The preparatory sub-Commission was instructed to follow up as rapidly as possible the different recommendations.

Finally, the joint commission examined the report of the sub-Commission on sectoral agreements and recommended further cooperation with regard to jute and coir products. It noted with satisfaction the decision of the community to bring forward the final removal of customs duties on jute manufactures to January 1, 1978.

INDIA BELGIUM USA RUSSIA

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Exchange of Technical Know-how

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 3, 1977 on the visit of a science delegation from the Federal Republic of Germany:

The exchange of technical know-how between India and the Federal Republic of Germany in the use of unconventional sources of energy with particular reference to Solar Energy, was stressed upon by the Union Minister of Energy, Shri P. Ramachandran, at a meeting with a German scientific delegation in New Delhi on November 3, 1977. Shri Ramachandran said this when Dr. Volkar Hauff, Parliamentary Secretary in the German Federal Ministry of Science and Technology and his colleagues called on him.

The Minister for Energy expressed his satisfaction at the traditional understanding and co-operation which this country had constantly had with the Federal Republic of Germany. He said that the two countries were already cooperating in the field of energy, particularly in the sphere of technical training in operation and maintenance of thermal plants. A team of German thermal power experts was now on a visit to a number of thermal power stations in the country. Shri P. Ramachandran expressed the hope that the two countries could cooperate in the field of coal technology in regard to beneficiation of coal and its optimum utilization. The Federal Republic of Germany has developed a new technology in this field which could be of great use to India.

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GERMANY INDIA USA

Date : Nov 01, 1977

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GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 26 1977 on the trade protocol between India and GDR:

India and GDR concluded annual trade protocol for 1978 which envisages a total trade turnover of Rs. 1346 million both ways, representing 9 per cent increase over the trade plan target of Rs. 1237 million for 1977. This is in terms of long-term trade arrangements existing between the Government of India and German Democratic Republic.

Under the protocol India would import from GDR muriate of potash, cinematographic films, printing machinery, machine tools, organic and inorganic chemicals, polyester and viscose staple fibre. India's exports to GDR would comprise of a product - mix of traditional and non-traditional items like iron ore, shoe uppers, finished leather, de-oiled groundnut cakes and other cakes, mica, cotton textiles and grey cloth, jute manufactures, crushed bones, sanitary fittings, machine tools and hand tools, silver nitrate, pepper, coffee and tea.

RENEWAL OF PROTOCOL

The trade negotiations for the renewal of the annual trade protocol were held at Berlin, where both sides emphasised the importance of further diversifying the trade pattern in order to ensure sustained growth of trade in the coming years. It was in keeping with this spirit that items like polyester and viscose staple fibre for import from GDR and export of textile machinery from India, were included in the trade plan for the first time.

The Indian delegation was led by Shri S. L. Khurana, Director in the Ministry of Commerce. The G.D.R. delegation was headed by Mr. F. Quabs, Acting Director General of the Government of German

Democratic Republic.

INDIA RUSSIA USA GERMANY

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

GUYANA

Indo-Guyana Joint Commission Proposed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 14, 1977 on the visit of Shri Samarendra Kundu to Guyana:

Addressing a press conference in George Town, Shri Samarendra Kundu, Minister of State for External Affairs, said that a Joint Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation between India and Guyana was expected to be set up soon.

Shri Kundu, who paid a two-day official visit to Guyana in the first week of November, 1977, said that there was a close identity of views between the two countries on bilateral as well as international affairs.

During his stay in George Town, the Indian Minister of State, called on Prime Minister Burnham and had detailed exchange of views with him on matters of mutual interest, including the forthcoming meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries scheduled to be held in Kabul, the Meeting of Ministers in Belgrade and the Havana Summit in 1979.

Shri Kundu also had detailed discussions with various Guyana ministers on issues of mutual interest and ways and means of promoting trade between the two countries. Shri Kundu also called on the President of

Guyana, Mr. Arthur Chung.

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GUYANA INDIA CAYMAN ISLANDS AFGHANISTAN CUBA USA

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

HUNGARY

Protocol Signed on Flood Protection Work

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 23, 1977 on the signing of the Indo-Hungarian protocol:

Hungary will coordinate with India in planning design, construction and maintenance of flood protection work; organising emergency team for flood fighting and assistance in providing equipment required for this purpose and for flood forecasting.

A protocol to this effect has been signed on November 23, 1977 by the working group of the Indo-Hungarian Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation. Shri C. C. Patel, Secretary, Department of Irrigation and Mr. Jozsef Vineze, Deputy President, National Water Authority, Hungary, signed the protocol on behalf of their respective governments.

Both delegations agreed that as and when occasion arises both countries would undertake joint consultancy projects in third country. They also showed keen interest in taking joint research programmes in the fields of: long range water management planning, flood control and hydrology, river regulation and scale model tests of hydraulic

structures. They agreed to provide training facilities in water resources development, exchange of scientists, engineers, trainee's and scientific and technical publications.

EXPERTISE FROM INDIA

The Hungarian delegation showed keen interest in getting expertise from India regarding planning, design, construction and operation of barrages and earth and rock filled dams. The Indian delegation agreed to render necessary expertise. Hungary also liked to share the vast experience gained by India in the operation and management of large irrigation system. The Hungarian delegation showed keen interest in procuring pumps of various sizes and capacities.

On sprinkler irrigation, used on an extensive scale in Hungary, the Hungarian delegation agreed that Indian experts could visit the country, where they would be provided assistance for evolving suitable system to suit Indian conditions. Hungary will also collaborate with India in carrying out system studies for specific multi-objective and multipurpose river valley development projects.

The programme of cooperation will be submitted for approval to the Joint Commission at its next session and will come into force from the date of approval. It will remain valid up to December, 1980.

HUNGARY INDIA LATVIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

HUNGARY

Visit of Hungarian Co-operative Delegation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 27, 1977 on the visit of the Hungarian co-operative delegation:

The Hungarian cooperative delegation led by Mr. Nihaly Bartolak, Deputy Chairman, Hungarian Cooperative Association, had discussions with the Union Minister of Industry, Shri George Fernandes in New Delhi on November 27, 1977. Smt. Abha Maiti, Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry, Shri V. Krishnamurthy, Secretary (Heavy Industry), and the Hungarian Ambassador participated.

The Hungarian delegation stated that their visit to India was in connection with identifying specific programmes for cooperation between the two countries under the aegis of the Indo-Hungarian joint commission, of which Shri George Fernandes is the Indian Co-Chairman. They stated that the objectives were to arrange for closer production and marketing cooperation with agricultural, industrial and consumer cooperatives in India. Another important objective of the delegation was to cooperate in the development of cottage, small-scale, khadi and village industries and to purchase

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products made by these industries for sale through cooperative organisations in Hungary.

Shri Fernandes stated that collaboration in the cooperative field between the two countries was important and was given top-most priority by the Government of India in the context of their policies for development of small-scale cottage, village and khadi industries. He was told by the Hungarian delegation that, in the course of the week during which they would be holding discussions with cooperative organisations and apex cooperatives in India, they would be able to identify positive areas of cooperation and also finalise orders for purchase of a range of products manufactured by the handloom, small-scale, cottage and khadi sectors.

MEETING WITH K. K. GOYAL

Strengthening of relations between the cooperatives of Hungary and India and possibilities of further cooperation in this field were discussed when Mr. Mihaly Bartolak, Deputy Chairman of the Hungarian Cooperatives Association called on Shri Krishan Kumar Goyal, Union Minister of State for Civil Supplies and Cooperation.

Both sides agreed to explore the possibilities of marketing of goods on reciprocal basis in each other's country specially during the observance of India Week in Hungary and Hungary Week in India. They also agreed that relations between cooperative set ups of these two countries be strengthened.

Shri Goyal pointed out that the Hungarian expertise in cooperatives both in industrial and agricultural fields would be welcomed in India. It was also pointed out that certain Items like leather goods, hosiery and handicrafts from cooperative sector had been identified which could be marketed to Hungary on a trial basis.

HUNGARY INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND HOME AFFAIRS

Seminar on Indian Press and Democracy

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 25, 1977 of the speech by the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, addressing the conference on the Press and Democracy organised in New Delhi by the International Press Institute:

Mr. President and friends, As you have just now learnt from Irani, I have almost invited myself to this function, as I thought that it would be better if I put before you some of my thoughts before you come to any conclusions.

It is human tendency to stick to one's conclusions once one arrives at them until one is forced to change those conclusions. What I am putting forward before you represents not only my views but, as far as I know, the views of the Government which is at present running the country. I have held these views but for many years, ever since I began to think about these problems.

"Democracy and the Press" is a subject which requires to be fully defined and clarified. It is not possible to define anything in fullest detail. It would not be even correct to do so. But the main principles can always be agreed to by all who believe in democracy. Democracy if it is to go on working vigorously and is to make people fearless so that they can defend democracy and preserve it, rests on four pillars - the Parliament or the legislature, the Executive, the Judiciary and the Press. These are the four pillars on which this mansion stands and if any one pillar gets weakened the mansion will collapse. All the four must, therefore, be independent and strong and free. Unless they

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are free, they cannot be strong. But all freedoms, ultimately, are relative. These freedoms, even the freedom of these four pillars, are subordinate to the freedom of society or the people whom these are brought up to serve. And unless they guard the freedom of the people and enable the people to get the necessary strength to guard that freedom, these four freedoms will not be doing their proper function.

PEOPLE'S AUTHORITY

Parliament, of course, is supreme within the Constitution. It is the people who are supreme. If a country has no written Constitution, like England, Parliament would

have the first and the last voice in everything. But such a situation is peculiar to England. Everywhere else the Constitution are written and properly defined. The people, therefore, are the final authority in everything. But people as a whole cannot exercise authority by themselves. Therefore, they choose their representatives who work on their behalf and carry on the Government. Parliament therefore, becomes supreme. But it is supreme within its functions under the Constitution. In a democracy, a Parliament which is elected democratically can have no authority to change the Constitution in an undemocratic manner or to turn it into a dictatorship. That authority Parliament cannot have. It can function within the Constitution which has been laid down by the people. And the authority-which carries on the Government on behalf of the Parliament, the majority party Which forms the executive of the Government is free to do what it should do under the Constitution. But it cannot work against the Constitution.

INDEPENDENCE OF JUDICIARY

When both these have to work under the Constitution, who is to decide finally whether it is constitutionally right or wrong? That cannot be done by themselves. Therefore, an independent judiciary becomes vital to the maintenance of the people's rights and the Constitution. Whatever laws are to be propounded or are enacted by Parliament at the instance of the Executive, whether those laws are within the Constitution or not and whether the actions under those laws are proper or not, can only be decided by an independent body, which is the judiciary. The judiciary's independence must, therefore, be safeguarded. And within its jurisdiction it is supreme. The final word about the legality or constitutionality of anything can be only with the judiciary, with the Supreme Court.

The Press becomes vital for all the three; more for the people, because it is necessary that the people should keep informed of what is happening. Public opinion will be very difficult to cultivate or to assert itself unless issues are put before the people. And that can be done more effectively by,

the Press than by anybody else. The Press, therefore, is doing the work both of reflecting the public opinion and also keeping public opinion healthy, which is very vital.

It also does the task of giving strength to the people and to Parliament, to the Executive, to the Judiciary, in whatever they are doing. It is also its function to bring to the notice of all concerned what is wrong and what is likely to hurt the freedom of the people, their rights and their welfare. Therefore, the independence of the Press is vital. If this is not preserved, democracy will go overboard, I have no doubt in mind as it was going overboard in the two years or less than two years of emergency in this country during 1975 and 1976. But the question is who to preserve this independence. Independence can be claimed and should be guaranteed, but who can guarantee that there will be no dictatorship in the country which will throw overboard all the freedoms of all except the dictator? That can be guaranteed only by the people, by their strength, by their conscious support of democracy and opposition of all that is undemocratic. But who has to do this on behalf of the people? That can be done only by the Press. The Press, therefore, reflects public opinion and also brings to the people's notice what is going to hurt them and what is going to harm democracy. But in order to do this, the Press also has got to be truthful and it has got to do its duty objectively and not out of prejudice.

FOURTH ESTATE

The Press is called the fourth estate. But let us not forget the three other estates. But sometimes the Press thinks it is the only estate. That is also a danger against which one has to guard, but only the Press can do so. It is not the Government's function to put any of the other pillars right. If Govern-

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ment tries to do it, it will then become a dictator.

Therefore, the Government must not

touch the Press in any way. Even if the Press goes wrong, the Government should not touch it. I would not do anything to control the press myself. I would leave it to the people to control it and to set it right. It is public opinion which will also put the newspapers in their place because if the circulation disappears, no press will work. That is the best antidote. The sense of right has got to be cultivated by the Press, just as I have got to constantly watch myself if I am doing right. The Press also has to see that it functions properly and maintain its independence.

OBJECTIVITY

On this matter there should be complete unity amongst all those who work in the Press, but there is a lack of it. Politics come in there also. The Press must be completely objective. Of course, everybody is bound to have his own political views or economic views or other views, but if we are in a democracy, we must have equal respect for others' views too as long as those views do not harm freedom of opinion and expression. Therefore, this objectivity is more vital for the Press than anybody else, as it is vital for judiciary. In this matter, both have to be completely objective. And if Government is to be objective, as it should be, really-speaking, and it is in a great danger of not being objective on account of the power that it wields, it is the Judiciary, the Parliament and the Press which can keep the Executive in proper trim and shape.

CRITICISM

Criticism, of course, is the right of everybody, not only of the Press. Democracy means the right of dissent. This is inherent in every person, but criticism to be effective or useful must be objective and based on facts and not on prejudice. When it is based on prejudice, it does not do any good, it does harm to the person who criticises rather than the person who is criticised because it reacts and recoils, but many a time such things get forgotten and we have to remind each other of this.

I have no doubt in my mind that all these four pillars have got to strengthen each other. Therefore, each one, each pillar must zealously guard the freedom of the other three pillars and their strength, because if one pillar gets weakened the other pillars will also get weakened. Therefore, there is no question of there being any contradiction among these. There is a relation of harmony between all of them and identity of interest which is the interest of the people. The interest of the people justifies the existence of all these four, otherwise there is no justification for anyone of them. If each person behaves properly, no Government is necessary, as none of these will come into force. But that is the ideal State which I don't think will ever come into existence. Therefore, all these things are necessary.

FREE PRESS

The Press was free in this country, but its corruption began six years ago. But the Press was also responsible for it. If Press people are tempted into doing wrong things, either by favours or by money or by the bottle, who can help their independence? This also has to be guarded by the Press. I can only point it out, but I cannot find the remedy. And therefore, the unity of the Press is vital in fundamental matters relating to the Press and to the people. Of course, they are bound to differ in their opinions. That is basic to democracy. It is only two idiots who can agree on everything. But people of intelligence cannot agree on every matter. There is bound to be a difference of opinion. But it is the function of wisdom to show that when we work together we coordinate our differences and act in the best interest of all concerned and agree to do so. This is what is assumed in democracy. And this is also what requires to be propagated by the Press. I had once had a long discussion with an Editor. When he asked me what he should do, I said it was not up to me to tell him what he should do. When he persisted, I said, "What you have got to do is to be honest in what you do and honest in seeing that democracy is preserved and strengthened and everything that requires to be done should be done. That is all that I can say. I cannot say: Do this or that. It

is not for me to give you a view. Views are bound to differ and you have naturally your own views".

But when people criticise the Government, it is their right to do so, even if they may be wrong. After all, freedom includes

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the freedom to make mistakes. Of course, freedom will be lost if one does not recognise mistakes. One must try to see them and correct them and not persist in mistakes. Otherwise, freedom itself gets into danger. But that also has to be done by the people concerned. It is not for another agency to put right the other agency.

DEFECTS

Therefore, the Press has to criticise not only the Government but also the people when they go wrong and also itself more than anybody else. Unless the Press cultivates the capacity of pointing out its own defects, I do not think it will qualify itself to be effective.

How it is to be done also is not my function. That is for you to devise. If I begin to tell you about that, it also will mean guidance and direction. I do not want to get into that field. Yes, if you privately discuss this matter with me, I can discuss it with you as a citizen. That is a different matter. But as Government, I have no business to tell you what you should do and what you should not do, except the general principles.

It is, for this reason that we have said that the news agency the Samachar should revert to the old status quo position, when four agencies were functioning. We received all kinds of contradictory recommendations in this matter. Some thought that we were also yielding to political pressure. We are not yielding to any political pressure. At least I refuse to yield to any pressure, whatsoever, whether it is from you or anybody. One should not yield to any pressure, that is

what I would certainly beg of you. One should not yield to any pressure unless one wants to give up one's freedom and independence of judgment. But we have no other way, we want to restore the freedom of the news agencies and there should be competition. There should not be one agency at all. There ought to be competition and therefore there were four agencies and we shall restore them. They should function properly and with equal strength. That is what we should like to see. There Government can help, but Government cannot direct them, nor can it do anything else in this matter except assisting them in what assistance they may Want.

PRESS COUNCIL

The same is the case of the Press Council. The Press, to regulate itself, requires a Press Council. But, if the Government takes this up, then it will be the Government which will regulate, and not the Press. It is, therefore, that the Government should not have anything to do with the Press Council, i.e. in forming it or in running it. I, therefore, said the Press Council also has to be chosen by the Press itself and not by Government.

Even in the matter of finances (of news agencies), if the Government has to give finances to them, then the freedom will be curtailed. It is, therefore, that I said in my discussions with some of them: "I am prepared to collect it for you and hand it over to you. You can tell me that you charge so much for the newsprint and I will hand it over to you and it should be distributed equally among the four and according to justice or equity, in an equitable manner so that the news agencies also will be free of the control of the more powerful among the Press. This also can be done, but that also has got to be suggested. I would not want to do anything unless it is wanted to be done by Government or by you."

There are several things in the matter of the Press which require to be carefully considered, as I said, and I hope you will consider them thoroughly and fully.

IPI has done considerable work and has been doing very important work. I am, therefore, happy that they are holding this conference. Yes, in the Emergency also they had done very valuable work, but whatever work is done from outside will not be effective as long as internally the work is not done. And it is here the strength has to be cultivated. There it can be helped in acquiring the strength and maintaining it. But until strength is cultivated by the Press in India itself, I am afraid no amount of help given by anybody is going to be helpful. In that process whatever help is required, Government will always give, if it can be properly given. But we want to see that Press is not interfered with in future by any Government and if it is humanly possible to make any provision like that, we would like to do so. If any suggestions are forthcoming, we shall carefully consider them.

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I, therefore, attach very great importance to your deliberations and I read in the Press today that someone in Bombay said we must have the right to criticise the Government. Who denies this? I don't know. Does it require to be talked about? Unless I am prepared to criticise myself, my criticism of other people will not be as correct. And I find sometimes the Press becomes very impatient if somebody criticises them. Now, is this fair? It must be two-sided traffic. It cannot be one-sided traffic.

GUARANTEE

This also requires to be considered. Of course, government does not criticise anybody. I won't criticise anybody, as Government. But privately, if we discuss something, I have every right to give my opinion as to what I think, what is being done, when you ask for it. Uncalled for, Government should not do anything. Whatever happens in the Press, I am not going to say whether it is right or wrong. That is the guarantee which Government can give to the Press. But the independence of the Press will really be maintained only by the Press itself and by those who are engaged in that task and they

also must see that irrespective of political views in matters of principles, in matters of freedom, in matters of independence, they are united and not divided. The possessive spirit is not good in any way. The possession of even an institution is not good, in my view. That spirit also harms and it is that which creates divisions and differences.

I cannot say that the Press is free from the weaknesses of human nature because newspaper people are also human. But the weaknesses are only there to be removed. Therefore, we need not be worried about weaknesses unless one gets indifferent to weakness and does not want to remove them.

I think, I have said more than enough. I thank you very much for inviting me on this occasion when you are having important deliberations and enabling me to give you my views.

INDIA IRAN USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND THE UNITED NATIONS

Territorial Integrity of Comoros Stressed

Shri Samarendra Kundu, Minister of State of External Affairs, made the following statement at the U.N. General Assembly on the question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte on November 1, 1977:

My delegation is deeply concerned that the territorial integrity and unity of Comoros, a sovereign Member State of this organisation, remains unresolved. The position of the United Nations on this matter,

however, is unambiguous. General Assembly Resolution 3385 (XXX) of 12 November 1975 which admitted Comoros to membership of this organisation, underlines the necessity for respecting the unity and territorial integrity of the Comoros Archipelago, consisting of all the four island groups, including Mayotte. The independence of the Comoros as one political entity was based on a popular referendum held in December 1975, in which 95 per cent of the voters opted in favour of independence based on the political unity and territorial integrity of the Comoros. Even the French colonial laws had maintained the unity of the Comoros Archipelago since 1912. It is natural, therefore, to expect that in Comoros too, as in the case of other former colonial territories in Asia and Africa, territorial integrity based on the geographical limits of former colonial territories would have been respected. Instead, we find that the independent State of Comoros has been confronted with a violation of its territorial integrity and unity at its very birth.

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My delegation has on previous occasions" categorically rejected the legitimacy of the two referenda in Mayotte in February 1976. The principle of self-determination and independence cannot be applied indiscriminately to parts of the territory of a Member State. Such wrongful application of this principle would have grave consequences for the United Nations. That is why General Assembly Resolution 1514 (XV) containing the Declaration on Decolonisation stresses the concept of national unity and territorial integrity for colonies evolving towards independence.

The question of Mayotte is too close to the graver problems of South Africa to be taken less seriously. The international community is now focussing its attention and its energies in liquidating the last bastions of colonialism and racism in Southern Africa. This is the time for the United Nations to take concerted and effective action to oust the illegal Ian Smith Regime in Southern Rhodesia in order to establish majority rule there. This is the time to compel South Africa to vacate its illegal occupation of

Namibia and to abolish apartheid. Surely this is also the time for France to resolve the contradictions created by the incomplete decolonisation of the Comoros. We trust that France with its well-known traditions of liberty, equality and fraternity will enter into a dialogue with Comoros with the assistance of the Secretary General and arrive at a democratic solution that respects the wishes of the majority of the people and also respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Comoros. At the same time, we would express the hope that Comoros too would make appropriate reassuring gestures in order to facilitate the reconciliation of Mayotte with the rest of the country. In the light of these views, India will vote in favour of the draft resolution contained in Document A/32/L.12.

INDIA COMOROS USA SOUTH AFRICA NAMIBIA FRANCE

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

IRAQ

India to Open Trade Centre in Baghdad

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 9, 1977 on the Indo-Iraq Joint Commission:

India and Iraq have agreed to open trade centres in each other's country as a measure to increase and diversify economic relations between themselves. This decision was taken by Shri Mohan Dharia, Union Minister of Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation and Mr. Ghanim Abdul Jalil, Co-Chairman of the Indo-Iraq Joint Commission, in New Delhi on November 9, 1977.

Mr. Ghanim Abdul Jalil suggested that the opening of an Indian trade centre in Iraq

would not only popularise Indian products to the Iraqi people but also increase India's exports earnings and diversify economic relations between the two countries. He pointed out that similar trade centres of other friendly countries had already been set up in Iraq.

Shri Dharia welcomed the suggestion and decided to open such trade centre in Baghdad and directed the State Trading Corporation to take immediate steps in that direction in collaboration with the Iraqi authorities. Iraq will also acquire reciprocal rights to open a trade centre in India.

The two Ministers also agreed to organise trade exhibitions in each other's countries and take other steps to promote trade. Shri Mohan Dharia urged upon the Iraqi Minister to increase the intake of various Indian items specially engineering goods, textiles, tea, coffee, coir products etc.

MEETING WITH RAILWAY MINISTER

Mr. Ghanim Abdul Jalil, Member of the Revolutionary Command Council of Iraq and Head of the Office of the Vice-Chairman of the RCC, Iraqi Co-Chairman of the Indo-

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met the Railway Madhu Dandavate, on 1977 to discuss India's role in of Iraqi Railways. Mr. was aware of the expertise and of the Indian Railways and that was looking forward with high for a significant role for India to play in the railway development projects of Iraq. He said that India and Iraq being friendly and developing countries there was vast scope for greater cooperation between them.

The discussions covered several aspects of India's participation in Iraq's development. Prof. Dandavate assured the Iraqi leader of full attention being given to the points made by him. He also invited a deputation of railway experts from Iraq to come to India to see for themselves the magnitude of the Indian Railways and their research,

production and construction capacity. Mr. Jalil accepted the invitation and said that this would be a step in the right direction.

Cooperation between the two countries in the field of railways has existed since 1970 when a preliminary feasibility-cum-cost study was conducted by the Indian Railway experts for a new 400 km. railway line between Baghdad and Hsaibah. A similar study was conducted in 1973 for the Alqairma-Kashat extension (150 km.) and economic study of Baghdad Hsaibah Akashat Railway Project (550 km.).

RITES

The studies were conducted by the Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES), a Government undertaking working under the aegis of the Ministry of Railways. RITES spearheads the export of technical expertise and know-how of the Indian Railways. In this it has the advantage of being able to draw upon the large reservoir of talent and expertise of the Indian Railways, the Research, Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) and several training institutes which have made spectacular advance since Independence.

MEETING WITH INDUSTRY MINISTER

Mr. Ghanim Abdul Jalil met the Union Minister of Industry, Shri George Fernandes on November 8, 1977. They discussed the follow-up action in respect of matters relating to economic and industrial cooperation between the two countries which were identified during the recent visit of the Union Minister of Industry to Iraq.

FOURTH SESSION OF JOINT COMMISSION

The week-long fourth session of the joint commission at the official-level commenced in New Delhi on November 4, 1977. Shri R. Bhandari, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs led the Indian delegation and the Iraqi side is being led by Dr. Abdul Amri Al Anbari, Secretary-General of Indo-Iraqi Joint Commission.

While according warm welcome to the

17-member delegation Shri Bhandari recalled the age-old ties existing between India and Iraq. He said that both countries had almost identical approach to all questions of bilateral cooperation. He assured the Iraqi friends, who are no stranger to this land, the Indian Government's fullest support in all matters. He recalled that Shri George Fernandes, Minister of Industry, who recently visited Iraq as the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai's Special Envoy, had a very successful mission.

Reciprocating the good wishes, Mr. Anbari assured his delegation's fullest support in achieving greater vistas of cooperation.

The last meeting of the joint commission was held in Baghdad in June this year. The Commission was constituted on March 28, 1974, to bring the growing economic and technical cooperation between India and Iraq within an institutional framework. The first meeting of the joint commission was held at Baghdad in January 1975 and the second in New Delhi in March|April 1976.

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IRAQ INDIA USA

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

KENYA

Visit by Indian Trade Delegation to Kenya

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 3, 1977 on the visit of an Indian delegation to Kenya:

Indian industry has offered training facilities to Kenya in the adaptation of intermediate technologies by deployment of Indian technical personnel to Kenyan enterprises and also through the provision of in-plant training facilities to Kenyan personnel in India.

The offer was made by an Indian delegation which visited Kenya from October 28 to November 2, 1977 under the auspices of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The delegation, which was led by Shri K. N. Modi, Chairman of the Foreign Trade Sub-committee of the Federation, included representatives of both public and private sectors in India.

During their stay in Kenya, the delegation called on the Kenyan Minister for Commerce and Industry, Mr. E. T. Mwangi and Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, W. Peter Muigai Kenyatta. They had extensive discussions with representatives of leading commercial, financial and industrial institutions of Kenya.

According to Shri K. N. Modi, there was considerable scope for furthering mutually beneficial association of business enterprises in the two countries. He said that the scope for potential cooperation covered both imports substitution and export-oriented enterprises.

The delegation emphasised its interest in the establishment of joint ventures based on phased manufacturing programme with stress on production of quality goods.

KENYA INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

New Air Services Agreement

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 3, 1977 on the new air services agreement between India and Kenya:

India and Kenya on November 3, 1977 initialled a new air services agreement between the two countries. Under the agreement, Air India can operate four services a week to through Nairobi to Lagos and Accra. Reciprocally Kenya Airways can operate four services to through Bombay to Hong Kong and Tokyo.

At present Air India is operating three services, two terminating at Nairobi and one via Nairobi to Lagos and Accra. The Kenys Air-ways are operating three services a week to Bombay.

The agreement was reached following two-day talks between the delegations of the two countries which concluded on November 3, 1977. The talks in New Delhi were in continuation of the discussions that the two delegations had in Nairobi last month.

The Indian delegation was led by Shri R. P. Naik, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation and the delegation of the Government of Kenya was led by Mr. Mwira-ria, Chairman, Civil Aviation Board of Kenya.

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KENYA INDIA GHANA HONG KONG JAPAN USA

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

Shri Desai's Speech at Dinner In Honour of Prime Minister of Mauritius

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 1, 1977 of a speech by the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, at a dinner in honour of His Excellency Dr. The Rt. Hon. Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Kt., Prime Minister of Mauritius:

Mr. Prime Minister, Excellencies, and distinguished guests, we are very happy to have in our midst Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius, and a warm-hearted and trusted friend of our country. On behalf of the Government and people of India, I extend a warm welcome to you, Mr. Prime Minister, and to the other distinguished members of your delegation.

Mauritius occupies an important place at the crossroads of the Indian ocean and has successfully absorbed and synthesised a variety of cultural influences from different Continents, especially from Asia and Africa. Under the able guidance of its Prime Minister and his Government, Mauritius has earned its own place in the community of the Commonwealth and African countries and is doing its best to deal with the problems of development. Its heavy dependence on one commodity, namely sugar, will, I have no doubt, be gradually reduced substantially by the exploration of its potentials of tourism and fisheries.

India is bound to Mauritius by traditional ties of friendship which draws its inspiration from ethnic, cultural, economic and political connections. Mauritius and India have an identity of views on several topical international problems. We are both members of the non-aligned community and our objective has been to foster peace and mutually beneficial cooperation among nations. We are cooperating with each other in working out the blue-prints of a New International Economic Order.

SENSITIVE PROBLEM

We have in common the very sensitive problem of having a Peace Zone in the Indian Ocean. We welcome that USA and USSR have commenced talks on mutual arms limitation in the Indian Ocean and we regard it as a first step towards establishing that Zone of Peace. The first signs of an agreement between them encourage the hope that these two great countries as well as the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean will cooperate meaningfully with the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean and its islands in evolving a time-bound plan to reduce- their military presence in this area and finally eliminate it.

An area of concern to us, and indeed to all freedom loving people, is Southern Africa. We wish that the current international efforts for bringing about majority rule in Zimbabwe and Namibia should succeed and result in the achievement of the legitimate objectives of independence by the people of these two countries. We all know that the alternative to this can only be an intensification of the armed struggle and resultant bloodshed. Here also, the Aglo-U.S. proposals recently formulated give us a gleam of hope but Mr. Smith appears to be at his own game and it would be interesting to see how the U.S.A. and the U.K. bring him to a state of reason. We are deeply concerned over the explosive situation that is developing in South Africa. The latest acts by the racist South African regime there of banning anti-apartheid organisations and closure of newspapers deserve to be condemned in strongest terms by the international community. We would like that adequate strong and very early pressure should be put on South Africa so that it sees the writing on the wall, gives up its policy of apartheid and restores to the African and Asian communities the rights and franchise that they are entitled to.

PARIS CONFERENCE

Many countries of the developing world, especially the most seriously affected countries, and the poorest developing countries

face gloomy prospects arising from the current global economic crisis. We regret that

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the Paris Conference achieved only a small measure of success and its results fell far short of its objectives. The present situation cannot be allowed to drift. There should be a sense of urgency in finding a solution to the unresolved issues. I am sure that Mauritius shares our views in this respect.

Our bilateral relations are developing satisfactorily. Our experts and expertise will continue to be at the disposal of Mauritius Government and people for their developmental programmes. We will be ready to give Indo-Mauritius cooperation new dimensions on the basis of mutually beneficial bilateralism.

Mr. Prime Minister, let us work together to usher in a new harmonious world order which will be built on the basis of national freedom, economic prosperity and equality among nations and for this there should be a greater readiness among the stronger and more developed countries to recognise the aspirations, interests and just demands of the weak and the developing countries. No charity or generosity is involved in this approach for this is the least the developed countries can do to undo the wrongs of history in this region - wrongs for which these countries cannot but consider themselves responsible.

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I request you to raise your glasses to the health of our distinguished guest, the Prime Minister of Mauritius, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, to the progress and development of Mauritius, and to ever-growing friendship between our two peoples.

MAURITIUS USA INDIA NAMIBIA ZIMBABWE UNITED KINGDOM SOUTH AFRICA FRANCE

Date : Nov 01, 1977

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MAURITIUS

H.E. Sir Ramgoolam's Speech

Replying to the toast, H.E. Sir Ramgoolam said:

Mr. Prime Minister, Your Excellencies,
Gentlemen,

I thank you for the kind sentiments expressed in your speech about my country, my people and about myself. I hasten to add that we sincerely reciprocate the feelings of love and friendship and see wider horizons of fuller cooperation between India and Mauritius opening up.

Our two countries, Mr. Prime Minister, have many things in common. India is known to be the largest democracy and a secular state. We too in Mauritius, firmly believe in the basic principles of democracy and we have at home people whose forefathers came from the four corners of the globe. We are proud to have succeeded in bringing about a judicious blending of Eastern and Western cultures, while at the same time retaining the essential Characteristics of our Indian heritage. Our aim is to see the day when Mauritian culture will become "a beautiful garland with different hues and different kinds of jewels studded therein" as President Rajendra Prasad once said of Indian culture. It is precisely for this purpose that we have recently set up, with the help of India, the Mahatma Gandhi Institute.

INDIAN OCEAN

Given such close similarities, the logical sequel would be for our two countries to share the same concerns and the same ideals. Indeed our paths do meet on the international plane. Mauritius is very much concerned about any power struggle in the Indian Ocean and would welcome practical ways of

maintaining the Indian Ocean as a military free zone on the internationally accepted principles of the rules and laws of the high seas. We shall keep a close watch over developments in that area and will continue to oppose, any attempt at the militarisation of the Indian Ocean. We are happy to have, in that respect, the support of peace-loving countries, like India.

It is really unfortunate that in some parts of the world, some of our brothers and sisters are still under yoke of colonialism, or are subjected to inhuman treatment as a result of the policy of racialism which is still being practised by some countries. We are anxious, as India is, to witness total liberation from the last shackles of colonialism and from the immoral degradation resulting from apartheid and discrimination with its associated economic inequalities.

Next year we shall be celebrating the 10th anniversary of our Independence. That

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will be a time for rejoicing. It will also be a time for remembrance. We recollect our association with the Indian National Congress. We cannot forget that it was India's struggle and her eventual attainment to Independence in 1947 that saw the beginning of the end of colonial rule in many parts of the world, including our own country. We are all the more grateful to India, because during the last decade we have been fortunate in securing considerable help which, has contributed in a significant way to the economic and social development of Mauritius.

Mr. Prime Minister, I would like to give you the assurance that it is the keen desire of the Government and the people of Mauritius that the spirit of friendliness and cooperation which has for so long characterised the relations between our two countries should continue for ever.

May I now, Mr. Prime Minister, Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, request you to join me in a toast to the President, the Government and the people of India.

Jai Hind.
Jai Mauritius.

MAURITIUS USA INDIA

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

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MAURITIUS

Joint Communiqué

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 5, 1977 on the India-Mauritius joint communiqué:

The Prime Minister of Mauritius, His Excellency Dr. The Rt. Hon. Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, paid an official visit to India from the 1st November, 1977 to the 5th November, 1977, at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India, Shri Morarji Desai.

The Prime Minister of Mauritius was accorded a warm welcome by the Government and the people of India, reflecting the very close ties between Mauritius and India.

The Prime Minister of Mauritius called on the President Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy, and held official talks with the Prime Minister of India, Shri Morarji Desai. He also received the Minister of Defence, Minister of External affairs, Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Minister of Education, Social Welfare and Culture, Minister of Finance and the Minister of Industry.

For the official talks the Prime Minister of Mauritius was assisted by H.E. Mr. Rajmohunsing Jomadar, High Commissioner for Mauritius in India, and Mr. Dayendranath Burrenchobay, Secretary to the Cabinet and

Head of the Civil Service. The Prime Minister of India was assisted by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Shri V. Shankar, Foreign Secretary Shri Jagat Mehta, Secretary Shri M. A. Vellodi, Secretary Shri V. K. Ahuja and the Indian High Commissioner in Mauritius Shri Kailash Chandra.

The talks between the Prime Minister of Mauritius and the Prime Minister of India took place in an atmosphere of complete understanding and cordiality in the spirit of the close and friendly relations existing between the two countries. The discussions included a review of developments of recent international events, particularly the situation in Southern Africa, the Horn of Africa, the Indian Ocean area and the bilateral relations between India and Mauritius.

The Prime Minister of India informed the Prime Minister of Mauritius of the developments in India leading to the formation of the new Government through the freely expressed judgement of the people of India, and underlined that the change-over was effected with discipline, peace and restraint. The Prime Minister of Mauritius conveyed felicitations of the Government and people of Mauritius for the achievements of the Indian people and their best wishes for the future progress and welfare of the people of India.

The two leaders reviewed the developments in Southern Africa and called for the speedy transition to majority rule in Zimbabwe and the early accession to independence of Namibia. They expressed their full support for and solidarity with the liberation movements in these areas. They expressed the hope that all parties would extend their

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full cooperation and understanding for bringing about peaceful transition to majority rule in Zimbabwe on the basis of the current international efforts afoot. The two leaders denounced the continued illegal occupation by South Africa of Namibia and its efforts to extend its policy of Bantustans there. They

supported the legitimate demands of SWAPO - the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people - for early accession of Namibia to independence with its international borders intact.

The two leaders expressed their deep concern over the explosive situation in South Africa resulting from apartheid and denial of basic human rights to majority of the people. They condemned the latest repressive actions by the racist South African regime of banning anti-apartheid organisations and the closure of newspapers, and called for an early and effective implementation of sanctions by international community against South Africa including a complete arms embargo.

The two sides took note of the commencement of the USA-USSR talks on mutual arms limitation in the Indian Ocean and welcomed it as a first step towards making the Indian Ocean a Zone of Peace. They called upon them and other big powers and major maritime users to cooperate fully with the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean in implementing the U.N. Resolutions on the subject.

They discussed the possibility of the developing countries of the region pooling and exchanging knowledge and information in the fields of climatology and meteorology including the prediction of monsoons and cyclones, oceanography, pollution control and the rational exploitation of fisheries and other resources, etc., leading to the establishment of meaningful programmes of cooperation which will meet the interests and needs of the people living in the region.

On West Asia, the two sides noted with regret that the progress towards a solution to the basic issues has been very halting and stressed the need for the early implementation of the relevant resolution of the Security Council.

The two sides emphasised the importance and validity of the Non-aligned movement and expressed their hope that the decisions of the last Non-aligned Summit and of the Conference of the Foreign Ministers of

the Coordinating Bureau of Non-aligned countries held in April 1977 will be implemented effectively and in good time.

The two sides expressed their disappointment at the extremely slow progress which has been made towards the establishment of a New International Economic Order. In this connection, they regretted that the results of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation held in Paris from December 1975 to June 1977 fell far short of its agreed objectives and that agreement was not reached on vital issues, such as the problem of indebtedness facing developing countries, the protection of the purchasing power of their export earnings and cooperation measures in favour of oil importing developing countries. They expressed concern at the present stalemate and hoped that discussions on the unresolved issues would be advanced expeditiously with a view to reaching appropriate agreements. They particularly emphasised the fact that the problems require a constructive and imaginative approach in full realisation of the urgency of bringing the developing countries to a state in their economic growth where they can attain the maximum degree of self-reliance.

The two sides welcomed the success achieved in solving problems and differences through bilateral negotiations between the countries of South Asian region. The Prime Minister of Mauritius appreciated the initiatives taken by the Government of India for the establishment of durable peace and furtherance of cooperation among all countries of the Sub-Continent.

The two leaders noted that India and Mauritius were bound by strong ties of history and culture. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the progress made in strengthening their cooperation in economic, technical and cultural fields and have agreed to explore further strengthening of relations in these areas. The Prime Minister of Mauritius expressed his appreciation of the contribution made by Indian technical experts working in Mauritius and the training and educational facilities extended to Mauritian

nationals in various technical institutions in India.

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The two Prime Ministers noted that friendship between the peoples of India and Mauritius, based on strong historical and cultural ties, has been strengthened by grow-in- economic and technical cooperation between them thus contributing to peace, stability and cooperation in the region.

The Prime Minister of Mauritius thanked the Prime Minister, the Government and people of India for the cordial and warm welcome extended to him and to the members of his delegation by the Government and people of India, and expressed his conviction that this visit will contribute further to strengthening of close and friendly relations existing between the governments and peoples of Mauritius and India.

The Prime Minister of Mauritius extended an invitation to Prime Minister of India, Shri Morarji Desai, to visit Mauritius. The invitation has been accepted with pleasure.

MAURITIUS USA INDIA NAMIBIA ZIMBABWE SOUTH AFRICA PERU FRANCE

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

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PAKISTAN

Satellite Communication

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 29, 1977 on the Satellite Communication with Pakistan from December 1, 1977:

India will establish Satellite Communication with Pakistan from December 1, 1977.

This information was given to Shri Brij Lal Verma, Union Minister of Communications, during his visit to Vikram Earth Station of Satellite Communications at Arvi, 85 kilometers from Pune. He was accompanied by Shri M. N. Bhagat, Deputy Director General (Traffic), Overseas Communications Service, Bombay.

Shri Bhagat informed the Minister that the Arvi Station had established through its 161 circuits, satellite communications with 17 countries so far and Pakistan would be an addition from December 1, 1977.

PAKISTAN INDIA

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

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PAKISTAN

U.S. Anus Supply to Pakistan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 30, 1977:

The acquisition of arms and ammunition from USA by Pakistan will, no doubt, enhance Pakistan's military potential, which is bound to have impact on our security, said Shri Jagjivan Ram, Minister of Defence in the Lok Sabha on November 30, 1977 in reply to a question by Shri Ram Naresh Kushwaha.

Shri Jagjivan Ram said, "that the USA announced its decision to lift the embargo on supply of arms to Pakistan in February, 1975." These developments are taken into consideration while planning our defence measures.

PAKISTAN USA INDIA

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

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SRI LANKA

India-Sri Lanka Cultural Agreement

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 29, 1977, on the signing of a cultural agreement between India and Sri Lanka:

A cultural agreement for the promotion and development of art, culture, education and sports was signed in New Delhi on November 29, 1977 between India and Sri Lanka. This is the first time that such an agreement is being signed between the two countries.

The agreement was signed by Dr. P. C. Chunder, Union Education Minister, on behalf of the Government of India, and His Excellency Mr. E. L. B. Hurulle, Cultural Affairs Minister for the Government of Sri Lanka.

Under the programme the two countries will undertake cultural and intellectual exchanges, reciprocal visits of representatives of educational, literary and sports organisations and participation in Symposia and Seminars. The agreement will also cover film festivals, exchange of educational, cultural and sports publications, the organisation of art exhibitions and display of archaeological findings

Scholarships will also be provided to

students in one country seeking higher education in the other and the question of mutual recognition of university degrees and diplomas will be examined.

SRI LANKA INDIA

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

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SWEDEN

Visit of Minister for Development Cooperation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on the visit to India of the Swedish Minister for Development and Cooperation:

Mr. Ola Ullsten, Swedish Minister for Development Cooperation called on Shri George Fernandes, Minister of Industry, in New Delhi on November 4, 1977.

During the one hour meeting, the two Ministers reviewed economic and industrial cooperation between the two countries and discussed the possibilities of expanding the areas of cooperation.

Shri Fernandes expressed thanks for the Positive lead taken by the Government of Sweden in not only meeting the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of Swedish GNP as development assistance to the developing countries but exceeded it to more than one per cent from 1975 onward.

Shri Fernandes also appreciated the declared intention of Sweden to write off the entire outstanding soft loans to developing countries.

During the talks the Minister of Indus-

try explained India's new approach to the development of small scale industries and village and khadi industries in its drive to create employment opportunities in the rural areas.

The role of appropriate technology and exchange of such technology between the developed and the developing countries also figured during the talks. The Swedish Minister expressed his support to the application of appropriate technology particularly in developing countries. He indicated that the Government of Sweden would associate itself with the Conference of Appropriate Technology to be held next year.

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The two Ministers stressed the importance of science and technology and its application in the interest of rural development.

MR. ULLSTEN CALLS ON SHRI VARMA

Mr. Ola Ullsten, called on Shri Ravindra Varma, Minister for Labour and Parliamentary Affairs.

Shri Varma referred to the setting up of National Vocational Training Institute for Women at Delhi and two regional training institutes in Bombay and Bangalore with the assistance of SIDA. The visiting Swedish Minister is also visiting the training centre at Bangalore.

Mr. Torbjon Carlsson, International Secretary of the Swedish Confederation of Trade Unions (LO) also participated in the discussions.

MEETING WITH SHRI DHARIA

Mr. Ola Ullsten, called on Shri Mohan Dharia, Minister for Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation on November 3, 1977.

During an hour long discussion the two leaders exchanged views on furthering trade relationships between the two countries. It was emphasised from the Indian side that this country was interested more in extending its bilateral trade and having more trade

cooperation. The idea of complementarities of trade was particularly stressed whereby both sides could exchange goods needed by each other. The Swedish Minister agreed with this thinking and stressed that his country was also interested in developing trade relationship between the two countries on the basis of cooperation.

India has been having an adverse balance of trade with Sweden continuously. There has been, however, significant increase in the total volume of exports to Sweden which increased to Rs. 255 million in 1976-77. Imports from Sweden have also registered an increase and were valued at Rs. 357 million in 1976-77.

The major items exported to Sweden from India are clothing, woven textiles for fabrics, cotton piece goods, jute manufactures, antiques and bed sheets etc. India's imports from Sweden comprise paper and paper board, electrical machinery, iron and steel, and medical and pharmaceutical products.

Apart from the direct trade between the two countries products like tea, leather, jute, jute manufactures, coffee, etc., are exported to Sweden through third countries.

SWEDEN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC RUSSIA

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

TANZANIA

Delegation Meets Shri Bakht

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 3, 1977 on the visit of the Tanzanian delegation:

The Tanzanian delegation which arrived in New Delhi on November 3, 1977 from Bombay had detailed discussions with Shri J. B. D'Souza, Secretary, Ministry of Works & Housing and the Heads of the Road Development Corporation, Indian Road Construction Corporation, C.P.W.D., International Airports Authority of India, N.B.C.C., H.U.D.C.O., H.H.F. and the Vice-Chairman of D.D.A. During the discussion, the delegation headed by Shri N. J. Maro, Principal Secretary, Tanzanian Ministry of Works, showed keen interest in the housing programme, construction of roads and bridges, financing institutions for housing and the development of international and domestic air services. The Heads of these public sector undertakings assured the delegation of their full cooperation in the projects which the Tanzanian Government might take up.

Earlier the delegation called on the Minister for Works, Housing, Supply & Rehabilitation, Shri Sikander Bakht, and had useful discussions on possibility of coopera-

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tion in the field of housing between the two countries.

On its arrival Shri J. B. D'Souza received the delegation at Delhi airport. The other two members of the delegation are Mr. J. A. Mwambungu, General Manager, State Motor Corporation and Mr. Y. G. Kritsos, Head of Mechanical Spares Section in Government stores.

TANZANIA INDIA USA

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

TRINIDAD

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 11, 1977 on the visit to Trinidad by Shri Santarendra Kundu:

The Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Sarnarendra Kundu, was accorded a warm welcome by the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago on his arrival in Port of Spain on November 8, 1977.

Shri Kundu called on the Acting President, Senator Wahid Ali, Minister of External Affairs, Senator Donaldson, Minister of Health and leader of the House of Representatives, Kamaluddin Mohammed, and Minister of Works, Communications and Transport, Mr. Hector McLean. He also met the Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago and President of the Court of Appeal, Sir Isaac Hytali.

The Minister of State said that the objective of his visit was to reinforce the close relations already existing between India and Trinidad and Tobago and also to give them greater economic content. This desire was fully shared by the dignitaries whom he met and concrete measures for attaining this objective were considered.

Shri Kundu had wide-ranging discussions with Foreign Minister Donaldson. These covered not only the development of bilateral Political relations but also the situation in Southern Africa and the question of disarmament.

INDIA TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO SPAIN USA

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

Sports Minister Calls on Dr. Chunder

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 5, 1977 on the visit of the Tunisian Minister for Youth:

The Tunisian Minister for Youth and Sports, H.E. Mr. Fouad Mbazaa, called on the Union Minister of Education and Social Welfare, Dr. P. C. Chunder on November 5, 1977.

The Education Minister explained the steps being taken to eradicate illiteracy from the country. He particularly highlighted

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his efforts to involve the youth forces and voluntary organisations in the literacy drive.

Explaining the Indian educational system, Dr. Chunder pointed out the inclusion of the vocational courses for secondary stage students. He also detailed steps to provide educational facilities to the children belonging to weaker sections.

The Tunisian Minister was also apprised of steps to strengthen and expand sports activities in the country. The role of non-official bodies in this regard was particularly highlighted.

The Tunisian Minister for Youth and Sports called on Shri Sikander Bakht, Union Minister for Works, Housing, Supply & Rehabilitation on November 4, 1977. Both the Ministers exchanged views on the works and housing programmes being taken up in their respective countries. They also exchanged views on the set up of sports and the role, national institutions for sports were playing in training coaches to be appointed in universities and colleges.

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UGANDA

Brig. Sabuni Meets Shri Fernandes

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 17, 1977, on the visit of Brig. D. Sabuni, Minister of Industry & Power of Uganda:

Various industrial projects for promoting cooperation between India and Uganda were identified on November 17, 1977 at a meeting between Brig. D. Sabuni, Minister of Industry & Power of Uganda and Shri George Fernandes, Union Minister of Industry.

The projects related chiefly to development in Uganda of small-scale and cottage industries, establishment of machine tool complexes, textile mills, sugarcane plants, edible oil processing plants, steel industries, power generation plants and transmission line projects.

The Ugandan Minister presented to the Minister of Industry the recent legislation passed by the Government of Uganda for protection and promotion of foreign investments in Uganda. In this context, the Ugandan Minister stated that they would welcome further Indian participation and assistance by way of supply of plant, equipment, technical experts and technology for development of industries in Uganda.

The Ugandan Minister referred to the good work already being done in Uganda by Indian firms and he stated that the quality of goods and services had proved satisfactory-

He said that this performance, appreciated by the Government of Uganda, would provide for greater participation of India in economic and industrial development of Uganda.

ASSISTANCE

The Union Minister of Industry stated that assistance would be given for promotion of specific projects in Uganda. The Ugandan Minister stated that the team of experts would come shortly to India for further negotiations for promotion of industrial enterprises in Uganda both in respect of large and small engineering goods from India. In this connection, a reference was made to the substantial export of engineering goods which had been effected recently by India chiefly in respect of supply of trucks and railway wagons.

The Ugandan Minister also referred to the support expressed by the Prime Minister of India, on whom he had called on November 16, 1977 to present a personal letter addressed by H.E. Field Marshal Dr. Idi Amin, Life President of Uganda, to projects for promoting friendly, economic and industrial cooperation between the two countries. He expressed satisfaction that, in the follow-up, several projects have been identified

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which would be further negotiated by a team of experts between the two countries.

UGANDA MINISTER CALLS ON SHRI MOHAN DHARIA

Ways and means of increasing and diversifying economic cooperation between India and Uganda was discussed when Brig. Dushman Sabuni, called on Union Minister for Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation, Shri Mohan Dharia, on November 15, 1977.

Shri Dharia pointed out that India was keen to strengthen economic ties with all the developing countries. He gave an account of the progress made by India in the field of industry and technology and pointed out that India had capacity to supply sophisticated goods, knowhow and turnkey projects to the co-developing countries. Brig. Sabuni

also explained the policy of his Government regarding foreign trade and said that Uganda welcomed foreign investment in various fields.

India's exports to Uganda during 1976-77 were worth Rs. 25.7 million as compared to Rs. 20.5 million in 1975-76. The main items of exports comprise of chemicals and pharmaceuticals, raw jute and jute manufactures, machinery non-electric, transport equipment, road motor vehicles, railway rolling stock, iron and steel, cotton textiles and metal manufactures.

UGANDA INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Prime Minister's Statement on His Visit to U.S.S.R.

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 14, 1977 on the statement in Parliament by the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai on his visit to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics from October 21 to 26, 1977:

Mr. Speaker Chairman, Sir, as the House is aware, I visited the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet leaders extended on their behalf by His Excellency the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union, Mr. Brezhnev. I left India on October 21, 1977 and returned on the morning of October 27, 1977. During my stay in the Soviet Union, I also visited the Black Sea town of Sochi and the capital of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. The Minister of External

Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee accompanied me on this visit. Throughout this visit, wherever we went we were received with warmth and courtesy which exceeded the protocol requirements.

STAY IN MOSCOW

During our stay in Moscow, we had two plenary discussions with the Soviet leaders led by General Secretary Mr. Brezhnev. I also had several informal talks with the Soviet leadership. The exchange of views covered our bilateral relations and dwelt on various important international questions. Though, by their very nature, such conversations must be treated as confidential. I have no hesitation in sharing with the House that our discussions were characterised by utmost frankness and cordiality. They revealed mutual appreciation of each other's points of views and a common determination to preserve and strengthen our cooperation and friendship based on mutual respect and equality to serve the enlightened interests of both countries.

For me, this was not my first visit to the Soviet Union. I had visited Moscow and some other cities in the Soviet Union in 1960. Going after 17 years, as I did, I was impressed by the economic and social progress in the places I visited.

When the Janata Government came to power, there were many who believed that Indo-Soviet relations would suffer as a consequence of the change of Government in India. This was not our expectation: the visit has vindicated our faith that notwith-

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standing differences in our social and political system and approaches on some issues our relationship has in no way suffered. On the contrary, on the principle of promoting beneficial bilateral relations, there are possibilities of healthy development in the cooperation between the two countries in the future. As the Declaration signed by President Brezhnev and myself acknowledges, Indo-Soviet relations have stood the test of time. It is a relationship which need in no

way be feared by any nation as it is anchored in the principles of peaceful co-existence which have universal applicability.

VISIT WELCOMED

I particularly welcomed this visit as it gave me the opportunity for establishing personal contacts with the Soviet leaders and I have no doubt this could be of great advantage in preserving our relations and correcting misunderstandings which may ever arise amongst us.

Indo-Soviet cooperation has a continuing momentum over many fields: the processes have never been allowed to slacken. During my visit no new technical or economic questions arose because we felt that these could best be discussed at the level of experts. The declaration, however, mentions that delegations of experts from Soviet Union are likely to visit India in the near future to explore ways and means of further strengthening technical, economic and scientific cooperation between the two countries and thereafter the proposals could be processed through the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission. As the House is aware, there is an Indo-Soviet Joint Commission for Technical, Economic and Scientific cooperation. The level of this Commission has been recently raised. The Minister of External Affairs will be the Indian Co-Chairman of this Commission and the Soviet Deputy Prime Minister, His Excellency Mr. Arkhipov will be the Soviet Co-Chairman. The Joint Commission will hold its next session sometime early next year in New Delhi.

INVITATIONS

I have invited President Brezhnev and Chairman Kosygin to visit India. They have accepted this invitation. Dates for these visits will be decided later.

In conclusion, I would like to state that this visit confirms the essential continuity of India's relationship with the Soviet Union which in turn reinforces our commitment to the principles of co-existence, non-alignment and friendship in promoting international'

stability. The visit has in fact given a dimension of stability and strength to Indo-Soviet relationship. The results have been welcomed in our country and in the USSR and I would think the maturity with which it has been reaffirmed will make it an important factor in promoting detente and widening the search for international peace. Both countries have also acknowledged that the relationship does not in any way come in the way of development of relationship with other countries which are motivated by similar objectives of promoting peace and the strengthening of understanding between nations. In brief, the Indo-Soviet relations now, as I said in Moscow, can now be looked upon as a model for any two countries to emulate.

USA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM RUSSIA

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

VIETNAM

Wheat Supply by India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 21, 1977 on the supply of wheat by India to Vietnam:

India will give an interest-free commodity loan of 1 lakh metric tonnes of wheat to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. An agreement to this effect was signed in New Delhi on November 21, 1977 by Shri R. N. Malhotra, Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, on behalf of the Government of India and by Mr. Nguyen Nhat Tan, General Director of the Vietnam National Agricultural Produce and Food-

stuffs Ex-Import Corporation, on behalf of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Vietnam had made a request to India for the supply of wheat to help tide over a temporary shortage. The wheat will be converted into wheat flour (Maida) and supplied on F.O.B. basis. The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam will return 1 lakh tonnes of wheat C & T Indian ports.

VIETNAM INDIA

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

YUGOSLAVIA

Visit by Shri Vajpayee

The following is the text of a press release on the statement by the Minister of External Affairs in Rajya Sabha on November 28, 1977 on his visit to the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from November 7 to 9, 1977:

Mr. Chairman, I paid an official visit to Yugoslavia from 7 to 9 November, 1977, at the invitation of H.E. Mr. Milos Minic, Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council and Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs. My visit was in response to a long standing invitation.

India's relations with Yugoslavia are close and cordial. Our two countries have been partners and pioneers in the Non-Aligned Movement and have cooperated closely in various international forums. This cooperation, it will be recalled, goes back to the days when India's first Prime Minister

Jawaharlal Nehru joined President Tito in giving a call to the newly independent nations of the world to secure their independence of judgement and freedom of action through mutual cooperation without involvement in the politics of confrontation of power blocs. Working together with leaders of other like-minded nations, they formulated the ideals of non-alignment. Today 87 nations of the world community and more than half of the world's population draws its inspiration from the principles of non-alignment and have derived strength from this association through free and voluntary cooperation. The Indo-Yugoslav relationship was nurtured on these inspired ideals.

Exchange of ministerial and other visits for exchange of views has been a traditional feature of this bilateral relationship. My own visit was planned first for June and later for September, but on both occasions, it had to be postponed for reasons beyond my control. In view of the closeness and importance of this relationship I decided to visit Yugoslavia at the earliest possible opportunity. Although I was unable to spare more than two days in Belgrade I am happy to say that within the short span of 48 hours I was able to have two sessions of most useful conversations on bilateral and international problems with Mr. Minic. I was also able to hold talks with the Vice-President Mr. Doronjski, President of the Assembly Mr. Gligorov, Prime Minister Mr. Djuranovic, Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Presidency of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia Mr. Dolanc and Deputy Prime Minister and Co-Chairman of the Indo-Yugoslav Joint Committee Mr. Vratusa.

My conversations with Mr. Minic and other Yugoslav leaders reaffirmed the similarity of views held and the deep understanding between our two countries.

As the House is aware, our two countries have worked together in the Non-Aligned Movement since its inception. It was therefore but proper that we should have reviewed our activities and coordinated our efforts for continuing cooperation in various forums. My visit provided a good oppor-

tunity for reviewing the implementation of the decisions taken at the 5th Non-Aligned Summit at Colombo and at the Ministerial Bureau meeting in New Delhi as well as for discussing the preparatory work for the Bureau meeting to be held in Kabul next year which in turn will be followed by the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of non-aligned countries in Belgrade in 1978.

In a comprehensive exchange of views on international issues, we discussed many of the pressing world problems. We also discussed the outstanding questions before the United Nations, including the forthcoming Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Disarmament.

ECONOMIC CONTENT

We recognised the need to impart greater economic content to the excellent political relations between the two countries. There are several possibilities for increasing trade exchanges between our two countries in non-traditional items as well as for undertaking new ventures in production cooperation. We also agreed to make special efforts to avail ourselves of opportunities for cooperation in third countries. Our two sides recognised the value of regular contacts not only at the Ministerial and official levels but also between institutions, including Parliaments of our two countries.

Though I could not meet President Tito, who had been advised complete rest after a strenuous tour of several foreign countries, I availed myself of this visit to convey to him through Mr. Minic the greetings of our Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai. I also invited the Foreign Minister of Yugoslavia to visit India and we hope to welcome him in our midst in the near future.

VISIT TO BONN

Thanks to the special transport arrangements made by the Federal Republic of Germany authorities I was able to visit Bonn on my way back from Belgrade for

a valuable meeting with Mr. Genscher, Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany. I had a wide ranging exchange of views in my meeting with Mr. Genscher on important developments since we met last in New York in September. We covered several questions including the relations between the great powers, detente in Europe, the developments in our neighbourhood and the problems in Africa and West Asia. We also touched upon the dangers of terrorism in its diverse manifestations and agreed that there was a need for an international consensus in dealing with this menace.

I would also like to place copy of the Joint Communique issued at the end of my visit to Yugoslavia on the Table of the House.

YUGOSLAVIA INDIA USA SRI LANKA AFGHANISTAN GERMANY

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

YUGOSLAVIA

Joint Communique

The following is the text of the joint communique issued at the conclusion of the visit of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs, to Yugoslavia:

At the invitation of the Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council and Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Milos Minic, the Minister of External Affairs of India, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, paid an official and friendly visit to the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from 7 to 9 November 1977.

During his visit, Minister of External Affairs of India A. B. Vajpayee was received

by the Vice-President of the Presidency of the SFRY, Stevan Doronjsky. Minister Vajpayee was also received by the President of the Assembly of the SFRY, Kiro Gligorov, the President of the Federal Executive Council, Veselin Djuranovic, by the Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Presidency of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, Stane Dolanc and the Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council, Anton Vratusa. The Minister of External Affairs of India also laid a wreath at the Memorial of Unknown Soldier at Mount Avala.

The Minister of External Affairs of India was deeply touched with the warmth

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of the reception accorded to him which reflected the close ties of friendship between the two countries.

The two Ministers held wide ranging discussions covering international issues and bilateral relations of major importance. The talks were conducted in an atmosphere of traditional friendship and mutual confidence. They confirmed a close identity of views on the subjects discussed, reflecting the deep understanding existing between the two countries. The two Ministers were assisted by the following:

YUGOSLAV SIDE: Mr. Miljan Komatina, Assistant Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ilija Topaloski, Ambassador at the Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Dragomir Petrovic, Ambassador at the Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ivan Kojic, Chief of the Cabinet of the Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Dragoslav Pejic, Director of the Department for South and South-East Asia, and FSFA Mr. Pavle Jevremovic, Counsellor at the Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs.

INDIAN SIDE: Mr. J. S. Mehta, Foreign Secretary, Mr. Natarajan Krishnan, Ambassador of India to the SFR of Yugoslavia, Mr. A. K. Damodaran, Additional Secretary, Mr. S. N. Puri, Counsellor of the Embassy of India in Belgrade, Mr. A. Mubayi, Special

Assistant to the Minister of External Affairs,
and Mr. R. Sen, Deputy Secretary.

The two Ministers reiterated their adherence to the United Nations Charter and their belief in the principles of sovereignty, independence, equality, non-interference and mutual respect as fundamental to the proper conduct of relations between States.

The two Ministers stressed the abiding validity of the policy of Non-alignment and the role of the Non-aligned movement as an important factor in promoting peace and understanding among nations. In this connection they recalled the decision adopted at the Colombo Summit and the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau in New Delhi in April 1977. They observed with satisfaction the further intensification of the activities of Non-aligned countries on the international scene, which was manifested at the XXXI and at the current XXXII sessions of the General Assembly of the Organisation of the United Nations, as well as at the gatherings of Non-aligned countries and within the "Group of 77" developing countries.

It was noted with particular satisfaction that concrete steps were being taken to develop cooperation between Non-aligned countries in economic, scientific, technical, cultural, information and other fields.

Reiterating their continuing commitment to the Non-aligned News Agencies Pool and to the objectives and tasks set before it by the Conference of Information Ministers of Non-aligned countries held in New Delhi in 1976 and the Colombo Summit, the two Ministers also expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the recently concluded first Conference of Broadcasting Organisations of Non-aligned countries in Sarajevo.

Underlining the importance of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy with economic development, the two Ministers agreed on the need for more intensive cooperation among Non-aligned countries in this field.

Despite the fact that the Non-aligned

Movement is exposed to constant pressures aimed at provoking conflicts and divisions, there is greater awareness of the need for the further strengthening of solidarity and concerted action aimed at the finding of solutions to all major international problems.

The two Ministers particularly emphasized the importance of the forthcoming Non-aligned Bureau Meeting in Kabul and the Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Non-aligned countries to be held in Belgrade at the end of July 1978 and expressed their readiness to contribute to the success of the Meetings.

Both sides stressed the importance of strengthening the trend towards detente and agreed that the efforts of non-aligned countries to extend this process to all areas of the world should continue. Likewise, they assessed positively the efforts being made at the Belgrade Meeting of the CSCE at strengthening security and cooperation in Europe and expressed the hope for its successful outcome.

Having reviewed the situation in South Asia and the success achieved by the new Government of India in the direction of creating a climate of good neighbourliness in the subcontinent, both Ministers noted with satisfaction the significant improvement in

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the relations between, the countries of the region. The two Ministers were convinced that the strengthening of the process of beneficial cooperation would release the resources and talents of the people in the area for constructive development.

In reviewing the situation in the Indian Ocean and South Asia, the two Ministers reaffirmed their support to the initiatives of the countries of the region for turning the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace. They urged the major powers and the maritime users to cooperate with the countries of the area in achieving this objective in consonance with various proposals made at the conference of the Non-aligned movement and in the United Nations.

While discussing the situation in the Mediterranean the two Ministers emphasised the need for continued efforts to turn the Mediterranean into a zone of peace in accordance with the conclusions of the Colombo Summit.

The two Ministers expressed serious concern over the situation in the Middle East. They came out resolutely in favour of a just settlement of this problem based on the complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from all Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the realisation of the legitimate national rights of the people of Palestine including the right to the establishment of an independent Palestine State and on ensuring rights of all States of West Asia to independent existence and development.

The two Ministers reviewed with attention the developments in Africa. They agreed that solutions for the existing conflicts in Africa should be sought through negotiations in accordance with the Charter of the Organization of African Unity, the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of the policy of non-alignment.

Both sides pledged their firm support to the struggle of the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia for national liberation. The two Ministers reiterated the determination of their respective countries to continue to lend full moral, political and material support to the peoples in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa in their struggle against forces of colonialism, racial discrimination and apartheid.

The two sides reiterated their firm support for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and non-alignment of the Republic of Cyprus and called for the implementation of the relevant UN resolutions in the interest of peaceful solution to the problems of Cyprus.

Both Ministers expressed concern over the absence of significant progress in the establishment of more equitable and balanced relations between the developed and developing countries. They reaffirmed their resolve

to continue and intensify their activities for the establishment of the New International Economic Order.

Both sides expressed their concern over the stepping-up of the arms race which lead to the squandering of ever greater material and human resources which are needed for a speedier economic and social progress of the world, and of the developing countries in particular. The two Ministers concurred in the view that it is necessary to initiate the broadest possible international action for the halting of the arms race without delay and for the setting in motion of the process of general disarmament under strict international control. Non-aligned countries should invest all efforts in order to ensure the success of the special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations devoted to disarmament.

The two Ministers reaffirmed their determination to strive for the strengthening of the role of the United Nations for relaxation of international tension consolidation of peace and development of mutually beneficial international economic cooperation. They recalled the consistent support given and the valuable contribution made by the Non-aligned countries to the strengthening the effectiveness of the UN Organisation and its various agencies.

The two Ministers reviewed and noted with satisfaction the growth of bilateral cooperation in different fields and resolved to give it a new momentum responding fully to mutual requirements and possibilities. They expressed their hope and confidence that the conclusions and agreements reached in the XIth Session of the Indo-Yugoslav joint Committee held in May 1977 in New Delhi for more intensive economic, scientific

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and technical cooperation would be implemented expeditiously.

They agreed that the increasing sophistication and diversification of the economies of the two countries had led to a growing complementarity which opened up new possi-

bilities of further industrial collaboration and greater trade exchanges in non-traditional Commodities. In this context it was agreed that special efforts should also be made for production cooperation in the supply of equipment, materials and services as well as joint marketing in third countries, particularly within the framework of cooperation among Non-aligned and developing countries, as envisaged in the Colombo Declaration.

The two Ministers agreed to continue close contacts and consultations at different levels In order to exchange views so as to further strengthen their close cooperation both in respect of bilateral and international relations.

The Minister of external Affairs of India expressed his sincere gratitude to the Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs for the very warm hospitality extended to him and to members of his party by the Government of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. He extended an invitation to the Fedgral Secretary for Foreign Affairs to visit India which was accepted with pleasure.

YUGOSLAVIA USA INDIA SRI LANKA AFGHANISTAN PERU ISRAEL ZIMBABWE NAMIBIA CYPRUS

Date : Nov 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

YUGOSLAVIA

General Raina's Visit to Yugoslavia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 9, 1977 on the visit of Gen. Raina to Yugoslavia:

General T. N. Raina, Chief of the Army Staff, returned to New Delhi on November

9, 1977 after a 7-day visit to Yugoslavia. He was received at the airport by His Excellency Mr. Andielko Blazavic, Yugoslav Ambassador to India and Principal Staff Officers of the Army Headquarters.

General Raina expressed deep satisfaction over his visit to Yugoslavia and said that he was confident that cooperation between the two, countries will be further strengthened.

During his visit, General Raina visited defence production units in Zagreb, Ljubljana and Sarajevo and also saw field formations of the national army.

He also concluded talks with Yugoslav Defence Minister, Gen. Ljubicic and Gen. Potocar, Chief of the General Staff.

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NIGERIA POLAND OMAN ROMANIA YEMEN

Date : Dec 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

AFGHANISTAN

Minister's Talks with George Fernandes

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 1, 1977, when the Minister of Industry and Mines of Afghanistan met Shri George Fernandes, Union Minister of Industry:

Mr. Engineer Abdul Tawab-Asefi, Minister of Industry and Mines of Afghanistan, had a meeting with the Union Minister of Industry, Shri George Fernandes, in New Delhi on December 1, 1977. The Afghan Minister was on his way back to Kabul from Bangkok where he attended the Conference of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

During the meeting, further areas of cooperation between the two countries were

identified, particularly in regard to the establishment of more industrial estates at Balkh and Kandahar in Afghanistan, oil and natural gas exploration, development of the steel, cement and textile industries.

Shri George Fernandes assured a step up in assistance from India for strengthening industrial and economic cooperation between the two countries with particular reference to the areas identified during the discussions.

BILATERAL COOPERATION

Referring to bilateral cooperation between India and Afghanistan, the Afghan Minister described as impressive the assistance given by the Government of India in the development of industries and construction of industrial estates in Afghanistan.

Mr. Abdul Tawab-Asefi said, the progress in respect of industrial estates in particular had picked up appreciably and the number of entrepreneurs applying for sheds and plots were much more than were available. Further progress had been made in these industrial estates for setting up ancillary industries which, he said, would go a long way in filling the gap between the large sector and the small-scale sector.

The Afghan Minister said that considerable assistance had also been given by India in respect of deputation of experts and training facilities. The experts, he pointed out, had done good work and further assistance would be required. He also referred to commendable work done by Indian geologists in the development of Onyx reserves recently.

The Afghan Minister also referred to the discussions at the ESCAP Conference in Bangkok where arrangements for cooperation amongst developing countries were agreed to with a view to achieving the objective of assistance amongst developing countries and to the less developed countries for accelerating the pace of their economic and industrial development.

AFGHANISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Dec 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

AFGHANISTAN

Joint Commission Session Concludes

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 13, 1977 on the fifth session of the Indo-Afghan Joint Commission:

The fifth session of the Indo-Afghan Joint Commission for Economic, Trade and Technical Cooperation concluded its work in New Delhi on December 13, 1977 with the signing of a protocol outlining a programme of cooperation between India and Afghanistan.

The Indian delegation to the talks was led by the Foreign Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and the Afghan delegation by their

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Commerce Minister, Mr. Mohammed Khan Jalalar.

Indo-Afghan relations in economic, technical and all other fields have been traditionally close and friendly.

The principal decisions taken by the Joint Commission relate to the setting up of Industrial Estates at Kandhar, Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif, the establishment of an Ear, Nose and Throat Institute in Kabul, the expansion of the Institute of Child Health and of the Industrial Estate which have already been established in Kabul with Indian assistance, and the expansion of the generating capacity of the Micro-hydel Project in Samangan.

India has also agreed to increase its

assistance to Afghanistan by deputing a larger number of experts in such fields as mining, health, public works, planning, rural development, etc., and also by providing more seats for Afghan trainees in India.

The talks were held in a very friendly, warm and cordial atmosphere.

The ways and means of increasing and diversifying Indo-Afghan trade was discussed in New Delhi on December 15 when Mr. Jalalar, called on Shri Mohan Dharia, Union Minister of Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation. Shri Dharia narrated to the visiting Minister the new policies of import liberalisation and enhancement of exports after protecting the interests of the domestic producers and consumers.

The Afghan Minister pointed out that because of the geographical proximity and friendly relations between India and Afghanistan, his country would like to import more from India. India's trade with Afghanistan is based on a system of counter-balancing where imports of fresh fruits, dry fruits and asafoetida are counter-balanced by exports of traditional items like tea and non-traditional items like machinery from India. The present agreement between the two countries was concluded on September 3, 1975 and is valid for a period of three years.

AFGHANISTAN INDIA USA

Date : Dec 01, 1977

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BANGLADESH

Banquet Speech by President Sanjiva Reddy

The following is the text of a press re-

lease issued in New Delhi on December 19, 1977 when President N. Sanjiva Reddy held at banquet in honour of the President of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh, H. E. Ziaur Rahman:

Proposing the toast Mr. Sanjiva Reddy said: It gives me great pleasure to welcome tonight His Excellency President Ziaur Rahman and the members of his party. Excellency though this is your first visit to India as the President of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh our country is not new to you. Your position is already assured in the annals of the history of your country as a brave freedom fighter who was the first to declare the independence of Bangladesh. Since you took over the reins of government in your country you have earned wide respect both in Bangladesh and abroad as a leader truly dedicated to the progress of your country and the well-being of your people. In spite of their vicissitudes the relations between our two countries are of a unique character,

COMMON HERITAGE

We share a common heritage, culture and language. The compulsions of geography determine the interdependence of out, two nations. Both the countries have a

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gigantic task before them to bring progress and benefits of independence and modernisation to our respective peoples. As non-aligned countries we share common approaches to foreign policy and the responsibility to cooperate within this group in the larger interests of the world community. The present Government of India came to power as a result of a massive popular mandate through an election which has already become a glorious chapter of contemporary history. Our people have unmistakably demonstrated their faith in democracy and placed on me and my colleagues the obligation to restore and respect their rights and dignity. My government is striving to refashion our economic policies so as to fulfil the expectation that even with freedom restored the benefits of progress reach

all segments of our society and more particularly the rural sectors where most of our people reside. We are equally determined that full protection and indeed enhanced opportunities should be afforded to linguistic and religious minorities and to the backward and weaker sections of our people. In our international relation we have recognised the need of concentrating on the realisation of a new economic order. To tackle the immense tasks before us nationally and internationally we recognise that we must work on basis of equality, independence respect for each nation's distinctive personality and strict non-interference in each other's affairs.

COURAGEOUS DECISION

My Government is particularly determined to making a sincere and systematic endeavour to improve relations with our neighbours. For a nation cannot devote its utmost energies to development at home to the exclusion or neglect of peace and progress abroad. This Government lost no time after assuming power in taking conscious, and if I may say so, courageous and statesmanlike decisions to deal effectively with some of the major issues which have bedevilled relations between our countries and had come in the way of our marching together towards peace and progress. Our most notable achievement in this regard has been the signing a few weeks ago of the agreement between our two governments on the sharing of the Ganga waters and on augmenting its flows. This agreement would not have been possible but for the spirit of mutual accommodation and understanding we showed towards each other and in particular, President, without the breadth of outlook and statesmanship shown by you yourself. We showed a readiness to make sacrifice and share hardships in the short term so that our two countries may reap the benefit of mutual accord in the long-term. We are convinced that the projection of this spirit on the wider canvass of our relations would enable us not only to solve other bilateral problems which are bound to arise from time to time as close neighbours but also to scale new heights of friendship and coopera-

tion in our relations. President, as independent countries, our countries have the right and responsibility to fashion our domestic and foreign policies in accordance with the priorities of our respective peoples.

UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD

We are fully convinced that we can ease our tasks in a spirit of good neighbourliness and the parallel and complementary demands of our economic development. We should intensify and enlarge cooperation between our two countries if for nothing else at least for avoidance of the costs of not doing so. The natural resources of the region that we share in common will remain largely unutilised or only partially utilised to the detriment of our economy unless we devise and implement joint schemes to harness them. Our lands will continue to be endemically ravaged by floods until we combine our resources to launch flood control measures. There would be many occasions when we could tide over our critical difficulties most expeditiously and economically with each other's help. Should we in such situations follow an exclusive or isolated policies and let our people suffer? There could be no moral or rational justification for such a policy. The technologies that we have developed in our respective countries are uniquely suited to the needs and socioeconomic structure of the other country. Moreover very few countries can combine better than India and Bangladesh to develop and adapt technologies and evolve methods of social mobilisation geared to the genuine development needs of our people particularly of our rural masses.

Our subcontinent has been traditionally known for its yearning for peace and its

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belief in universal brotherhood. Here quest for material pre-requisites of life has always gone side by side with the desire to serve larger moral purpose. It has also a deep tradition of tolerance, respect for other's creed, faith and belief. Your projected visit to the holy shrine of the venerable Khwaja of Ajmer is in itself convincing evidence of your own regard for these values of which the

Holy Saint was such a shining example. These traits of our tradition are highly relevant to the strife-torn and problem-ridden modern world. In a way we have already seen signs in the outside world, particularly in the affluent societies of a recognition of the relevance of these ancient virtues. However they will gain wider acceptance and applicability for resolving major global problems if we are able to set an example by practising these virtues in our own societies by toleration and social harmony. Excellency we are convinced that your visit though very short will greatly contribute to the further strengthening of understanding and cooperation and to the promotion of peace and stability within and outside our region. Excellencies, colleagues and friends, may I request you all to join with me to raise your glasses in toast for: the health and happiness of His Excellency President Ziaur Rahman, to the progress and prosperity of the great people of Bangladesh and to the bonds of friendship between India and Bangladesh.

BANGLADESH INDIA USA

Date : Dec 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

Reply by President Ziaur Rahman

Replying to the toast, H.E. Mr. Ziaur Rahman said:

Your Excellency President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, Your Excellency Prime Minister Morarji Desai, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am extremely thankful to you Mr.

President and Mr. Prime Minister and also to the Government and the people of India for the warm reception accorded to us on our arrival and for the excellent arrangements made for our stay in Delhi and also for our visit to Ajmer. We are indeed very happy to be in the beautiful and historic city of Delhi. This city has been the meeting of many a great culture and civilisation. I have pleasure in conveying to the Government and the people of India the friendly greetings and good wishes of the people of Bangladesh for your progress and prosperity.

We sincerely believe that relations between Bangladesh and India should be marked by friendship and cooperation as expected of two close neighbours. We are indeed happy that through the joint efforts, initiatives of our two Governments, it has been possible to resolve some of the major difficulties which impeded our progress towards the realisation of this objective. An important factor that contributed to our success in this direction was our adherence to the principles of mutual respect for sovereign equality, non-interference in each other's internal affairs and recognition of the need for mutual cooperation.

There can be no doubt that we have made very substantial Progress since April this Year in the improvement of our bilateral relations. The conclusion of the Farakka Agreement last month was the most significant step in that direction. Let us strive to maintain the same spirit of understanding and cooperation that characterised the signing of the Farakka Agreement in settling all our bilateral issues and problems. Bangladesh, on its side, will not fail to seize every opportunity of making her due contribution in maintaining a climate of peace, understanding and good neighbourliness in the sub-continent.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

We in Bangladesh remain keenly conscious of the need to resolutely face the immense problems of poverty and underdevelopment of the people of our region. We have been making every effort to speed up

our economic growth so as to reach, as soon as possible, our goal of a self-reliant economy. Given the serious constraint of resources this is by no means an easy task. We have noted with much admiration the determination of the Indian leaders in tack-

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ling economic and social problems of a comparable nature. In these respects the objectives of our two countries are similar. It is, therefore, imperative that we pledge to make the fullest use of our resources for this purpose.

We view with deep concern the growing disparity between the rich and poor nations of the world. The developing nations are painfully aware more than ever before that this inequitous process impeding their development efforts cannot be checked unless the existing economic order is restructured. We, therefore, strongly urge that concrete steps may be taken for the establishment of a new and just international economic order and call upon the countries like ours for close co-operation for the realisation of this objective.

INDIAN OCEAN

Another area which deserves our priority attention is that of the Indian Ocean, on which Bangladesh has supported U. N. resolution declaring it as a Zone of Peace. We favour the participation of the littoral and hinterland states in consultations and arrangements towards implementation of the resolution. We would welcome the extension of the concept of the Zone of Peace to the entire region. A significant step in this direction would be a progressive reduction in arms in the region along with efforts to work towards complete disarmament in all parts of the world as envisaged in the UN resolution.

We also note with a feeling of deep anguish the continued illegal occupation of the Arab lands and the suffering of the Palestinian people. We reaffirm our total support to the immediate implementation of

the relevant U.N. resolutions and the withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab lands and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. In the countries of Southern Africa minority racist regimes have not only continued to deny the majority of its legitimate rights but also subjected it to great persecution and suffering. We believe that the right of self-determination and majority rule cannot be denied to the people of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa. We remain committed to support all causes which are based on justice and fairplay.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I now request you to join me in a toast to the health, happiness and long life of His Excellency President of India; to the health, happiness and long life of His Excellency Prime Minister of India; to the continued progress and prosperity of India; and to the durable friendship between the peoples of our two countries.

BANGLADESH INDIA USA PERU ECUADOR ISRAEL NAMIBIA SOUTH AFRICA ZIMBABWE

Date : Dec 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

Indo-Bangladesh Joint Communique

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 20, 1977 on the Indo-Bangladesh Joint communique:

At the invitation of the Government of the Republic of India, His Excellency President Ziaur Rahman of the People's Republic of Bangladesh paid a State visit to India on 19-20 December, 1977. The President of Bangladesh was received by His Excellency

Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, President of the Republic of India and His Excellency Shri Morarji Desai, Prime Minister of the Republic of India and was accorded a warm welcome.

The President of Bangladesh, during his stay in India laid a wreath at the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat. The President and his party also visited the Dargah-e-Sharif of Hazrat Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti at Ajmer.

During his stay in New Delhi, the President of Bangladesh called on the President of India, His Excellency Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy who returned the call. The Prime Minister of India Shri Morarji Desai and the Minister of External Affairs of India Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee called on the President of Bangladesh. The President of Bangladesh returned the call of the Prime Minister of India.

The President of Bangladesh and the Prime Minister of India met and discussed all matters of mutual interest in depth. This

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was followed by a meeting of the delegations of the two countries at which the President of Bangladesh was assisted by H.E. Prof. Muhammad Shamsul Huq, Hon'ble Adviser In-Charge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; H.E. Mr. B. M. Abbas, A. T. Hon'ble Adviser, In-Charge of the Ministry of Power, Water Resources and Flood Control, H.E. Mr. Tabarak Hussein, Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh and other senior officials. The Prime Minister of India was assisted by Shri Jagjivan Ram, Raksha Mantri; Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs; Shri Surjit Singh Barnala, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation; Shri V. Shankar, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister; Shri J. S. Mehta, Foreign Secretary; Shri C. C. Patel, Secretary, Department of Irrigation and other senior officials.

The talks covered a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest and were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere. The talks reflected

a broad similarity of views on a number of issues of mutual concern and confirmed the common desire to consolidate and develop further this improved climate of relations between the two countries.

The leaders recognised that the two countries were bound by the ties of geography, tradition and culture, and the need for maintaining close and friendly relations between them. Reiterating their commitment to non-alignment, they reaffirmed their determination to develop and strengthen these relations on the basis of sovereign equality, independence and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. They were convinced that this would contribute to the consolidation of the emerging edifice of peace in the region and the promotion of peace and stability in the world at large.

The leaders regarded the Agreement signed in Dacca on 5th November, 1977 on the Sharing of the Ganga Waters at Farakka and on Augmenting its flows of historic significance. This Agreement was possible because of the spirit of mutual accommodation and understanding shown by the leaders of the two countries.

The leaders attached importance to a speedy solution of the long-term problem of augmenting the flows of the Ganges, which was essential for adequately meeting the requirements of both the countries and thus in the interests of their peoples. They recognised that the Agreement had paved the way for wider cooperation between the two countries particularly for the optimum utilisation of the water resources of the region as a whole.

The leaders affirmed the heritage of human values of universal brotherhood, tolerance and compassion which their countries share and which inspire and guide them in their policies of social justice and harmony for their respective peoples.

The leaders exchanged views on international situation and noted with serious concern continuing tension and conflict in certain regions of the world. Both the leaders

expressed the hope that a durable peace would be achieved in West Asia within the framework of the resolutions and decisions of the United Nations. They reaffirmed their support for the just struggle for majority rule in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa.

The leaders expressed their concern at the increasing disparity between the rich and poor nations. They, therefore, supported the move for a new and just international economic order and expressed their desire to cooperate in international forums to achieve this common objective.

The leaders reiterated their support to the UN Declaration on the Establishment of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

The leaders recognised that the visit of the President of Bangladesh had further contributed to the building of confidence and to the consolidation of their friendly relations.

The President of Bangladesh extended invitations to the President and the Prime Minister of the Republic of India to visit Bangladesh and the invitations were accepted.

The President of Bangladesh expressed his sincere thanks for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to him and the members of his party during their visit to the Republic of India, by the Government and the people of India.

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Date : Dec 01, 1977

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BULGARIA

India and Bulgaria Sign Trade Protocol for 1978

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 18, 1977 on the trade protocol between India and Bulgaria:

India and Bulgaria signed in New Delhi on December 17, 1977 a trade protocol for the year 1978. The protocol was signed by Shri Suresh Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce on behalf of India and by Mr. L. Spassov, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Trade on behalf of Bulgaria.

The trade protocol for the year 1978, as finalised envisages a total trade turnover of Rs. 1130 million between the two countries. Bulgaria is an important trading partner of India among the East European countries. The Indo-Bulgarian trade turnover has risen from Rs. 100 million in 1963 to about Rs. 400 million in 1977.

Some of the important items that Bulgaria has been supplying to India are Urea, chemical products, dyes and pharmaceuticals, electronic items and various steels. India's exports to Bulgaria include traditional items such as jute, pepper, hides and skins, oil cakes, groundnuts, tobacco, tea and coffee as well as earth-moving machinery, steel products, dyes, leather items and cotton textiles.

In the trade protocol for 1978, certain new items have been included for both export and import. For import from Bulgaria, the items included are metal-cutting tools and measuring instruments, cargo vessels, sunflower seed oil, synthetic and man-made fibres and yarn, wool and woollen rags, raw silk and newsprint. The new items included for export from India are printing machinery, cosmetics and stationery items.

The existing trade and payments agreement between India and Bulgaria concluded in March 1974 is valid up to December 31, 1978. It was agreed that negotiations for a new trade agreement will be held during the course of the coming year.

Date : Dec 01, 1977

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Czech Deputy Premier Meets Shri Advani

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 5, 1977 on the meeting between the Czech Deputy Premier and Shri Advani:

Mr. Matej Lucan, Deputy Prime Minister of Czechoslovakia on December 5, 1977 called on Shri L. K. Advani, Minister of Information and Broadcasting. He was accompanied by Dr. Zdenek Trhlik, Deputy Foreign Minister and Heads of the Departments of Czech Television, Films and Radio.

The delegation will hold discussions with the officials of AIR, TV and Film Division about further exchange of radio TV programmes and documentaries between the two countries. It will also visit Bombay to discuss with the representatives of the film industry.

Mr. Lucan told Shri Advani that his country was interested in devoting more time on the radio and television for programmes on India and was interested in the Inter-

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national film festival to be held in Madras in January. He expressed the hope that there would be greater participation by the Indian film industry in the Karlovy Vary film festival to be held in July, 1978.

MEETING WITH EDUCATION MINISTER

India and Czechoslovakia will further

strengthen cultural relations which would bring people of two countries closer and better acquainted with each other. This view was expressed when Mr. Lucan, called on the Union Minister of Education, Social Welfare and Culture, Dr. P. C. Chunder.

The two Ministers felt that cooperation could be developed in the field of higher and university education, science and technical education, sports, performing arts and films.

Exhibitions of paintings, photographs and artistic crafts should be regularly held in each country to project the cultural heritage of the two countries, the Ministers suggested.

They also underlined the need to have cultural agreements for longer duration. The present two-year agreement will be expiring in 1978.

The visiting Minister disclosed that a folk dance ensemble and a puppet group will give shows in India next year. The Deputy Prime Minister expressed the hope that the work on Czech-Hindi dictionary will be completed by 1980. A Tamil reader book is also being prepared by the Institute of Indology in that country.

Dr. Chunder said that the Government of India would spare no effort to develop better and closer relations with friendly countries.

NORWAY SLOVAKIA INDIA USA

Date : Dec 01, 1977

Volume No

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

India and Czechoslovakia Sign Trade Protocol for 1978

The following is Me text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 18, 1977 on the trade protocol between India and Czechoslovakia:

India and Czechoslovakia signed here this afternoon trade protocol for the year 1978. It was signed by H.E. Mr. Jeroslav Jakubec, Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade on behalf of Czechoslovak and by Dr. P. C. Alexander, Commerce Secretary, on behalf of India.

The trade protocol for the next year as finalised, envisages a total trade turnover of Rs. 1750 million between the two countries. Czechoslovakia is an important trading partner of India among the East European countries, coming after USSR and Poland. The Indo-Czech trade turnover has risen from Rs. 40 crores in 1971 to Rs. 85 crores in 1976.

Czechoslovakia is an important source of supply for our requirements of steel and steel products, newsprint, seamless pipes, tubes and casings, machine tools, components, tyres for tractors, organic and inorganic chemicals, hops, shoe making, tanning and leather making machinery. Czechoslovakia has played a leading role in assisting India in setting up projects in both public and private sectors. Some of the major projects set up with Czech collaboration are HEC, Ranchi; BHEL, Hyderabad; Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels, Vishakapatnam; Machine Tools Corporation, Ajmer; HMT, Pinjore; Hindustan Tractors, Baroda; K. S. Diesels, Bombay and Ideal Jawa, Mysore. The projects have helped India in strengthening her industrial and production base to meet indigenous requirements and to create capacity for export of sophisticated engineering items to a number of countries. As a result of Indo-Czech collaboration, India is now in a position to supply engineering items, like, heavy duty transformers, coke-oven complex, steel structurals, power generation equipment, electronic motors, rolling mill equipment, etc. to Czechoslovakia herself and to other countries as well.

ITEMS OF EXPORT

India's main items of export to Czechoslovakia are iron ore, deoiled cakes, coffee, pepper, jute manufactures, tanned and semi-tanned hides and skins, finished leather, textiles, woollens and synthetics, mica, manganese ore, castor oil and shellac based products. Czechoslovakia has also been importing

non-traditional items like rolled steel products, machine tools, electric sewing machines, auto-ancillaries and tyres and tubes. In the interests of diversification and maximisation of trade between the two countries, Czechoslovakia has agreed for the first time to import printing machinery from India in 1978.

NORWAY SLOVAKIA INDIA USA POLAND RUSSIA

Date : Dec 01, 1977

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GUYANA

Joint Commission Set Up

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 30, 1977 on economic co-operation between India and Guyana:

Indian High Commissioner to Guyana Shri Pushakr Johari and Permanent Secretary of Guyana's Ministry of Economic Development Mr. Hetram Maraj exchanged letters in Georgetown on December 29, 1-977, setting up an Inter-Governmental Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation between India and Guyana. The Commission will periodically review the programmes of cooperation in the economic and trade fields, exchange relevant infor-

mation for specific programmes and explore possibilities for expansion of mutual trade and cooperation between the financial, industrial and commercial institutions of the two countries. It will also take necessary steps to strengthen the cooperation between India and Guyana in the scientific and technical fields. Each side of the Commission shall be headed by a representative at the Ministerial level nominated by the respective countries. The Joint Commission shall normally meet once a year alternately in the two countries.

GUYANA INDIA USA

Date : Dec 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

HUNGARY

New Trade Agreement Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 15, 1977 when India and Hungary signed a new trade agreement:

India and Hungary signed here this morning a new trade agreement. The agreement provides for trade between the two countries beginning from January 1978 in freely convertible currency, thus changing over from the present system of payments through clearing arrangements in Indian rupees. The agreement will be valid for three years beginning from January 1, 1978 and will be automatically extended successively for further periods of one year unless notice of termination is given by either party to the agreement 90 days before the expiry date of the agreement.

A separate agreement was also concluded today, in regard to the liquidation of rupee balances and rupee payment obligations consequent on the termination of the current Trade and Payments Agreement on December 31, 1977. While all trade transactions from January 1978 will be in freely convertible currency, all import and export contracts concluded before December 31, 1977 will continue to be implemented in Indian rupees in accordance with the relevant terms of the contracts and agreements. The repayment of principal and payment of interest on credits given by Hungary to India in pursuance of agreement on economic cooperation of June 15, 1966 shall also continue to be made in non-convertible Indian rupees on the due dates.

Both the trade agreement and the agreement on liquidation of rupee balances and rupee payment obligations were signed by Shri Mohan Dharia, Commerce Minister, on behalf of the Government of India and Dr, Jozsef Biro, Minister of Foreign Trade of Hungary on behalf of the Hungarian People's Republic.

The framework of both these agreements was discussed in two rounds, in September in New Delhi and October in Budapest, and the present Agreements are the culmination of these discussions.

HUNGARY INDIA USA

Date : Dec 01, 1977

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HUNGARY

Meeting with Industry Minister

The following is the text of a press

release issued in New Delhi on December 16, 1977 when the Hungarian Minister met Shri George Fernandes:

A wide range of subjects relating to economic and industrial cooperation between India and Hungary were discussed when Dr. Jozsef Biro, the Minister of Foreign Trade of the Hungarian People's Republic, called on the Union Minister of Industry, Shri George Fernandes, here today.

Specific areas of cooperation discussed by the two sides related to aluminium projects, electronics, animal husbandry, irrigation, water management, flood control and manufacture of articulated bus bodies for mass transportation.

The question of utilisation of complementary industrial capacities in both the countries was discussed for mutual benefit, for exports to third countries and implementation of turn-key projects. In this connection, a reference was made to the negotiations for setting up a coke oven project in Hungary which will provide utilisation of capacity of the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi.

From January 1, 1978, trade between India and Hungary will be on the basis of free foreign exchange. Negotiations have been concluded for purchase of several items from India, to be paid in free foreign exchange. The items include textiles, ready-made garments, leather goods, shoes, light engineering products, articles manufactured by small-scale industries and products manufactured by industrial cooperatives and cooperatives concerned with rural, cottage village and khadi industries.

Cooperation in the manufacture of power generation equipment, specially those relating to hydel generating sets was also discussed in the context of providing generating plant and equipment in conjunction with the indigenous manufacturers for meeting the programmes of increase in the installed generating capacities in India during the next five years.

It was agreed that preparatory work for following up the areas identified for cooperation between the two countries would be undertaken immediately before the next meeting of the Indo-Hungarian Joint Commission which is scheduled to be held early next year.

The Union Minister of Industry, Shri George Fernandes, is the Indian Co-Chairman of the Joint Commission.

HUNGARIAN MINISTER CALLS ON
SHRI RAMACHANDRAN

Possible areas of cooperation in power development and other related fields were discussed when Dr. J. Biro, called upon the

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Union Minister for Energy, Shri P. Ramachandran, here today.

Hungary has already supplied equipment for the Lower Lagyup Hydro-Electric Project in Sikkim. During the discussions it, was disclosed that Hungary was in a position to supply this country with power generation machines of 300 M.W. ratings.

HUNGARY USA INDIA RUSSIA

Date : Dec 01, 1977

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1995

INDIA AND COLOMBO PLAN

Shri Satish Agarwal's Address at Kathmandu Meeting

The following is the text of the speech by Shri Satish Aqarwal, leader of the Indian Ministerial Delegation to the 26th Consultative committee Meeting of the Colombo Plan in Kathmandu on December 5, 1977:

Mr. Chairman: May I at the very outset offer my heartiest felicitations to you on your unanimous election as Chairman of the 26th meeting of the Colombo Plan Consultative Committee. I am sure I am voicing the feelings of everybody present here when I say that under your able and wise leadership this meeting would be able to arrive at meaningful conclusions. I am particularly happy to be here in Nepal with whom India's cultural and friendly ties go back to the days before the dawn of history. The great apostle of peace and non-violence Lord Buddha had his birth in this country. The message of peace, compassion and brotherhood of man which have spread in India and to other parts of the world is as relevant today as it was More than 2500 years ago when he first preached it. I would also like to take this opportunity Mr. Chairman to offer on my behalf and on behalf of other members of my delegation our warmest thanks to his Majesty's Government of Nepal for their hospitality and for the fine arrangements they have made for our stay and work in this charming city of Kathmandu.

Mr. Chairman the main problems before the Colombo Plan region countries continue to be one of low and inadequate incomes and Widespread unemployment and under-employment. Poverty and unemployment are two sides of the same coin. Speaking from the experience of my own country where nearly 80 per cent of the population lives in rural areas dependent predominantly on agriculture it is evident to us that neither poverty nor unemployment could be eradicated without according primary attention to agricultural and rural development in the overall development strategy. India has gone through more than 25 years of planned development. The results of the past developmental efforts have been of a mixed nature. Achievements in certain sectors such as capital goods industries have been quite impressive while the growth of output in the agricultural sector has been barely adequate to match the rate of growth in population. The rate of growth of the economy as a whole has been just moderate. It has grown at an annual average rate of 3.5 per cent

over the last 25 years or more which is barely one percentage point above the rate of growth of population. Furthermore the past development efforts while benefitting a small section of the population has left almost untouched the bulk of the country's population especially those living in rural areas. While the number of people living below the poverty line has not gone down unemployment has increased both in absolute terms and as a proportion of the working population. This is the legacy against the background of which we in India are now engaged in the process of giving a new orientation to our development strategy.

MASSIVE MANDATE

The massive mandate which the people of India have given to the Janata Party in

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the election this year is a clear manifestation of the desire of the Indian people for a re-shaping of our economic policies so as to bring about speedy elimination of poverty and destitution. The new Government is determined to accelerate the pace of economic progress and to distribute its fruits equitably in a framework of democracy and individual freedom. The primary objective of the new Administration is to build a society where justice and equality will prevail and everyone assured of a certain minimum standard of living. To achieve this our new development perspective accords pride of place to integrated agricultural and rural development, generation of employment on a widespread basis by stimulating growth of small scale industries, cottage industries and handicrafts, provision of adequate wage goods in the country to end chronic shortages, removal of disparity between region and region and between stronger and weaker sections of the society and last but not the least control of inflation.

PRODUCTIVE JOBS

In a country like India Mr. Chairman primacy to agricultural development must necessarily mean priority for expanding irri-

gation facilities. After all these decades of development only 25 per cent of the cultivated area of my country is under irrigation. Water being the most important input for agriculture, it is our aim soon to double the rate of growth of irrigation potential from the present annual rate of 2 million hectares and to bring an additional 17 million hectares of land under irrigation in the next five years. The neglect of the rural sector in the past has been such that even today a large number of our villages are without assured drinking water and without proper roads and other elementary infrastructure. All this will now be accorded a higher priority and greater emphasis will also be placed on adult literacy and non-formal education especially in rural areas.

Mr. Chairman in my country the problem of poverty is also closely linked with that of unemployment as I have already mentioned earlier. In order to eradicate poverty we have to create more productive jobs. The bulk of these jobs will have to be in the rural areas. The spread of irrigation facilities would greatly add to the employment potential. The Sixth Plan of India which is scheduled to begin next April is being formulated with a view to making a frontal attack on the problem of unemployment so as to eliminate it altogether in a decade. In addition to the development of agriculture we propose giving greater attention to the allied sectors of rural economy like dairying, poultry farming, horticulture, forestry. Besides these it is necessary to encourage village and small industries which can generate jobs for millions. In the new planning strategy generation of productive employment as an effective means of tackling poverty is thus to receive special emphasis.

Emphasis on agriculture and other rural activities will not however be at the expense of modern industry which has necessarily to play a complementary role with agriculture in solving the basic problems of the country. Essential industries especially those producing goods for mass consumption will receive much greater attention than in the past. Power generation which is vital for both agriculture and industry will be accelerated

All in all we are changing the direction of planning and its methodology with greater emphasis on sectors which would generate a large number of productive jobs and thereby help banish the curse of poverty.

NEW TECHNIQUES OF PLANNING

Mr. Chairman for making planning more effective and purposeful new techniques of planning are being adopted in my country. Hitherto the Planning Commission had been preparing five year Plans in a rather rigid time-frame which did not have an inbuilt mechanism for adjustment to emerging conditions and the requisite mid-course corrections. The new administration's idea is not merely to plan for five years but also to review implementation every year within a rolling five year perspective it would be a continuous process rolling on from one year to the other and not an exercise once in five years without regard to emerging national and international economic conditions.

The new administration is also fully conscious of the need to control the rate of growth of population in an effort to raise the living standards of the common man. Unfortunately this vital programme was given a wrong twist by the previous administration in utter disregard of the need to ensure that such programmes must always be

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implemented with the fullest involvement and consent of the people. We are firmly resolved to pursue family planning Programme through persuasion and not through coercion. In this direction the Government is stepping up its efforts to spread health and medical facilities to rural areas and family Planning will form a part of an integrated maternal and child health welfare programme. We thus hope to succeed in persuading more and more people to accept the small family norm.

INTERNAL RESOURCES

Mr. Chairman India's developmental efforts have relied heavily on its own internal resources. More than 90 per cent of the

resources for development have been found from within the economy. However international cooperation in the form of capital and technical assistance has a crucial role to play in our developmental efforts as well as in the development of other developing countries of the region. The record of the richer countries of the world in assisting the poorer countries has been below expectations. Against the accepted target of resource transfer equivalent to 0.7 per cent of GNP as official development assistance, achievement in 1976 was mere 0.36 per cent of GNP. In real terms it has been lower than in the early 60's. Moreover this insufficient volume of assistance has been poorly distributed the poorer among the developing countries are getting proportionately less than their share. Countries with a per capita income of less than S.265 per annum account for 60 per cent of the population of developing countries. They are receiving only 45 per cent of official development assistance. Most of the countries of this region fall in the category of those who have received less than enough attention. The per capita aid received by these countries is less than half of that received by higher income developing countries. Among the poorer countries some have received particularly scanty attention. My own country Mr. Chairman has been receiving the lowest per capita bilateral official development assistance: S 1.3 in 1975 as against the average of all developing countries of S 4.4. To compound the unevenness in distribution the terms of aid are also less favourable to the poorer countries.

As a study by the Development Committee of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank has observed 'although the terms have improved overall low income countries get their assistance on the average on harder terms than the high income groups of developing countries'. In any global strategy for alleviation of poverty and building up of a more harmonious world order which would be in the interest of all the role of international cooperation through adequate resource transfers from the rich to the poor countries can scarcely be over-emphasised. It is essential that each developed country adopt a time-bound programme to fulfil the

internationally agreed official aid target of 0.7 per cent of GNP. Some of the developed countries like Norway, Sweden, Netherlands have already reached this target and we hope others will take progressive steps to reach this soon.

BURDEN OF EXTERNAL DEBT

Furthermore Mr. Chairman because of adverse changes in international climate for developing countries they have been saddled with a mounting burden of external debt. The outstanding debt of developing countries is estimated at S 170 billion at the end of 1976 and is projected to increase to S 253 billion by the end of 1978. Debt service charges have been absorbing a good proportion of earnings from exports. Mr. Chairman as everybody knows this situation was not the making of developing countries and has been the outcome of recent international events characterised by recession and inflation in developed countries resulting in decreased income from exports, steep rise in the cost of essential imports and consequent worsening of the terms of trade. While the debt issue has become the most critical and urgent problem for developing countries it remained an area where least progress was made by the international economic community at the Paris Conference. The need is for urgent action and policy decisions rather than continued analysis.

RESOURCE TRANSFER

There is a case for immediate relief on ODA debt for the poorest countries. A real solution to the problem of debt burden is to prevent it from arising. Resource transfer from the richer to the poorer countries should really be on grant or grant-like terms. This has already been fully appreciated and implemented by some countries notably the

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U.K. and it is our hope will be implemented by other donor countries as well.

Mr. Chairman against this background of mounting debt burdens and insufficient flow of capital resources on soft terms the trade front for developing countries is

menaced by the dark clouds of protectionism. It is disturbing to note that new restrictions are being imposed on their exports to developed countries for instance the exports of textiles and garments are facing stringent quota restrictions. The adverse effects of this on their exports is already visible. It would be particularly unfortunate if the initial attempts at diversifying their exports away from primary commodities should meet with barriers at the very first evidence of their success. The burden of adjustment to changes in the international economic situation should not through ill conceived protectionist policies be transferred from the stronger to the weaker shoulders particularly when economies of developed countries have far more resilience. Poorer countries in the international community need a congenial trade atmosphere to pursue successfully policies to ensure a reasonable standard of living for their population.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL GOODS

It is in this context Mr. Chairman that I would wish to refer to some salient features of technology transfer. Technology is an essential tool for accomplishing quickly the economic and social goals of developing countries and technology transfer requires to be treated as a core input if the developing countries are not to be left behind further in this fast changing world. The main attribute of technology transfer should be its capacity to optimise the utilisation of scarce resources - of men, material and finance. After all no country developed or developing can indulge in reckless exploitation of resources whether renewable Or not. It is in the interest of every one to conserve and use them most efficiently. We must not forget that we collectively owe a responsibility to posterity.

If we are to achieve this common cherished goal there can be no doctrinaire or dogmatic approach in the selection of the modes of transfer of technology. There have to coexist technology transfers of all types, commercial, Government to Government and technical co-operation among developing countries.

SELF-RELIANT ECONOMIES

It is unfortunate that the present pattern of technology transfer has not accomplished the objective of building up self-reliant economies. On the other hand it has perpetuated dependence of recipients on the suppliers. The greatest drawback has been that more often than not technology has not been appropriate to the recipients' needs. It has borne no relevance to the user countries' stage of economic growth and social development, their development goals and priorities and their natural and human resource endowments. It is hardly surprising that capital and energy-intensive technologies have in predominantly capital-scarce and surplus-manpower economies become square pegs in round holes. One can hardly afford to lose sight of the need for the fullest utilisation of the vast reservoir of human resources in the developing countries. This is not to suggest that appropriate technology must essentially and solely be a simple one. It can be and in fact has to be specialised and sophisticated where necessary. The acid test should be: is the technology technically and economically viable with reference to the recipient's resources endowments? Does it build up the recipient's absorptive capacity and propensity to consume the technology offered? Will it generate further effective demand for technology of a more sophisticated type? Does the transfer have a multiplier effect on the recipient's economy by generating more productive employment, higher incomes, more effective demand for goods and services, higher level of savings and investments.

Mr. Chairman, these are not utopian goals. They can be and should be accomplished. It is gratifying to note that the international community is alive to the problem. Technology transfer has been the subject of deliberations and policy formulation in a number of forums, chiefly in the United Nations - the United Nations Development Programmes, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, the World Intellectual Property Organisation and now in this forum as well. The

problems plaguing the effective transfer of appropriate technology have been identified

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and solutions suggested. There is greater appreciation now of the need for identification of technology needs, building up institutional infrastructure and human resources through a job-oriented and job-related systems of education and training effective information network, intra-regional cooperation and twining arrangements. In particular there is a need for an early adoption of a code of conduct to govern transfer of technology and revision of the Paris Convention on Industrial Property to make them more liberal and recipient-oriented.

EXPERTISE

On its part my country has actively engaged in sharing her expertise, skills and infrastructure with the member countries of the Colombo Plan, through a variety of bilateral and multilateral mechanisms. It is our earnest desire to continue to promote this mutual cooperation. The establishment of the regional centre for transfer of technology in Bangalore recently will certainly open up new vistas for cooperation.

Mr. Chairman in order to close the gap between rich and poor nations the world has to move towards a new international economic order. The new international economic order is essential if the relations between the rich and the poor nations are to be transformed into a mutually beneficial partnership. A number of measures to usher in a new international economic order have been suggested by a group of experts appointed by the Commonwealth Secretary General and were also discussed in CIEC at Paris. These, are expected to be pursued further in the United Nations. The Colombo Plan donor countries in particular have an important role to play in the emergence of a new order.

Mr. Chairman it is my hope that the views on some of the major issues which I have just placed before the Committee will

merit attention of distinguished delegates and in mutual consultations we will be able to arrive at pragmatic solutions to some of the basic problems facing the countries of the region.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

INDIA SRI LANKA NEPAL USA LATVIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC NORWAY SWEDEN PERU
FRANCE UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Dec 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND THE COMMONWEALTH

Shri Vajpayee Hosts Dinner for H.E. Mr. Ramphal

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 22, 1977 when the Minister of External Affairs Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, held a dinner in honour of H.E. Mr. S. S. Ramphal, Commonwealth Secretary General and Madame Ramphal:

Proposing the toast Shri Vajpayee said:

We are happy to welcome the Commonwealth Secretary-General and Mrs. Ramphal as the honoured guests of the Government of India. This is an occasion which gives us an opportunity both to reaffirm India's moorings in the Commonwealth and to express our warm appreciation of the role played by Secretary-General Ramphal in vivifying this unique organisation. I hope it will not embarrass you if I say that we in India, as the land of your ancestors, join with Guyana, your own home and a country with which we have cordial relations, to rejoice and take pride in the distinction of this high office you now hold.

MULTI-CONTINENTAL

It is now part of history how India, which won independence from the Empire 265 and decided to become a Republic, surprised some people by choosing to form part of the new Commonwealth. The Commonwealth today has completely outgrown the imperial phase and become an association of sovereign nations, multi-continental in character, not constricted by any formal contracts. It is in essence held together by the common will of its members to use their historic ties to good purpose by way of mutual cooperation.

Earlier this year, the Heads of Commonwealth Governments assembled in London to take stock, consult one another and chalk out plans for new collective endeavours appropriate to the call of the times in which we live. Our Prime Minister and myself were very glad to have this chance, soon after India's reassertion of democratic faith and the formation of our new Government, to establish informal personal contacts with other leaders of the Commonwealth, to declare our abiding conviction in the Commonwealth as an unconstraining partnership of friendship and progress.

The Commonwealth Secretariat has provided a framework to implement our consensual decisions in a practical way. It is here that you, Sir, have given a vigorous impetus by your skilled diplomacy and your steadfast vision. To cite just two examples: it was under your initiative that the Commonwealth decided to offer a programme of assistance to Mozambique - a non-Commonwealth country - when it faced hardship in self-sacrificing imposition of sanctions against the illegal Ian Smith regime. You have likewise taken a concerned and purposeful interest in the troubled quest for Securing majority rule in Zimbabwe.

All are agreed that the Commonwealth should not be divided on the racial or the economic axis. We do not want the Commonwealth to be a commonality of poverty. That means that we must jointly devise plans and institutions to improve the productivity of member countries whose people, for his-

toric and economic reasons, are not able to give of their best to the community. In the proposed South, South-East Asian and Pacific Summit of Commonwealth countries we are embarked on a typical Commonwealth innovation. In the wider Commonwealth programme as a whole, we are prepared to work with others, not for self-interest but as part of our obligation to contribute to a just and cooperative world. The Commonwealth may be viewed as a model for a functional associative network among nations, free of elaborate procedures and regardless of geographical, cultural and other diversities. Such a grouping and such a habit of partnership reinforces the will and skill of countries to forge new links and strengthen old ones, to build a world of interdependence and equity.

ENERGIES OF YOUTH

Mr. Secretary-General, your interest in the harnessing of the energies of youth for the benefit of humanity is well-known. We welcomed the setting up of one of the Youth Centres of the Commonwealth in our country in Chandigarh. India is an age-old country by virtue of its tradition and civilisation, but it is a young country by virtue of the youth of the majority of its citizens. So we should be able to combine the wisdom of age and the vitality of youth to satisfy the quest for youth leadership in national endeavours.

India, as you know, comprises a large section of humanity. In fact, there are more Commonwealth citizens in India than in the rest of the Commonwealth. We have a long haul ahead of us in our quest to give them a better life. Yet we have travelled a long way, a hard way, in the thirty years of independence. We have built the foundation and the scaffolding of a self-reliant economy. Our country is an open book. Our failures and accomplishments, our historic burdens and future promises, are all written there plainly for all to read. We are ready to share our experience as part of our commitment to help other developing countries to realise their full potential.

Sir, we are happy indeed that you and

your family and staff have spared some days to see something of the variety of India - its villages and cities in all their moods. I have no doubt you will discover everywhere the strong impulse of goodwill which animates India as a member of the Commonwealth and the world community. It will be as sincere a welcome as we extend to you at this table.

I call on all present to raise their glasses in a toast to the health of Dr. and Mrs. Ramphal and to their return in the near future.

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INDIA USA GUYANA UNITED KINGDOM MOZAMBIQUE ZIMBABWE

Date : Dec 01, 1977

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INDIA AND THE COMMONWEALTH

H. E. Mr. Ramphal's Speech

In his reply H.E. Mr. Rmphal said:

Each visit I make to India is, of course, a kind of home coming; and each time I come - which is, alas, all too infrequent - the warmth of my reception renews the bond of kinship. On this occasion, the sense of belonging is of a special quality, for with me are members of my family - another generation sprung from this soil that sees India with all the wonder and excitement of a first meeting. I am, therefore, most specially grateful to you Foreign Minister, and to the Government of India, for the many courtesies and kindness of which we have all been the recipients.

And, of course, I come to India not just out of a past connection but out of a present

that is itself a continuum. For the Commonwealth through whose collectivity I serve India is itself an emanation from a history that took my forefathers from India to the new world across a cruel middle passage. How strangely true, and yet how truly certain, that that history which divides itself in its unfolding also reunites. As you do me honour tonight here in the heartland of India as one in the service of the Commonwealth that India has so greatly helped to fashion, I am deeply conscious of the ambience of fraternity within a circle joined that the occasion so richly evokes.

I have said that India has helped greatly to fashion the Commonwealth. It was a noble task requiring courage and great vision on the part of many leaders; but it was not an end so much as a beginning - for what was fashioned was a new dimension of human relationships with a special potential for helping to bridge the many divides that sear the landscape of man's condition. To develop that potential and to employ it in the service of mankind has been a Commonwealth vocation; and India has been unwavering in its perception of that role and persistent in summoning, and sometimes recalling, the Commonwealth to its fulfilment. And the Commonwealth has grown stronger for India's commitment to making it relevant, modern and functional.

Today, nothing gives me more encouragement and satisfaction than the indication I constantly receive of the heightened standing of the Commonwealth within the international community and of the ever enlarging value which the world outside our membership attaches to our endeavours - indeed, to our very being. We must continue to deserve that confidence.

IDEA OF COMMUNITY

Of course, the times themselves give to the Commonwealth idea of community, dialogue and co-operative action within great human diversity a very special relevance for, are these not, quintessentially, the elements of global need to which all our purest insights lead us? And was this not your Prime

Minister's meaning when on the eve of the Commonwealth meeting in London last June he spoke so reflectively of the need for 'a Commonwealth of the world?'

Certainly, our post-war world has begun to move away from its conceptual moorings of power and now questions the relevance, indeed, the very basis of the adversary system which has so long characterised relations between states. It is a movement away from preoccupation with national sovereignty towards preoccupation with the quality of life within nations, from concern with strategies of power to concern for the human condition. It is a movement responsive to the realities of global interdependence.

In the pre-war era of dominance, a poet of the East (Tagore himself) could lament a world which "knew that the few were more than the many." In a post-war world newly conscious of the limits to power a statesman of the West (President Kennedy no less) would warn that "a free society which could not help the many who are poor could not save the few who are rich." The many were at last becoming more than the few.

We have come a long way in perception of our world as a community of peoples; yet, the journey has barely begun towards making it truly so. And the world's advantaged, poised betwixt memory and awareness, are unwilling to cross the threshold of change. Indeed, even at this moment of deepening

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global insights there are signs of widening divisions within the world community and signals which point to regression rather than progress towards a new order of fairness among mankind. Before our human society moves forward we might yet take a dangerous backward step to the detriment of all men.

India can help to recall the world to its essential needs. A long history of internationalism and a great tradition of human Compassion have earned you the world's respect and commands you the world's atten-

tion. I know that your national commitment to these principles is being vigorously pursued in many fora and at several levels. The Commonwealth is but one of these. I wish you to know that its facilities are in the service of those principles and of India itself. And I invite you to draw upon its multi-layered resources even as your membership endows them with that special dimension which is India.

I began, Foreign Minister, with an expression of gratitude. I end with its renewal -- but with respect for the poet's injunction that I "Let not my thanks to thee rob my silence of its fuller homage."

May I invite you all to rise and drink with me a toast to the Government and the people of the Republic of India.

MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER
AND PRESIDENT

Mr. S. S. Ramphal during his stay in the capital, called on the President, Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Minister of Finance, Shri H. M. Patel, the Minister of Commerce, Shri Mohan Dharia, the Minister of Law, Justice & Company Affairs, Shri Shanti Bhushan, the Minister of Education, Social Welfare & Culture, Shri P. C. Chunder, and the Minister of Industry, Shri George Fernandes.

Among his other engagements in the capital was a Meeting with the Members of Parliament.

INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date : Dec 01, 1977

Volume No

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Tripartite Talks on Electronics

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 12, 1977 on the Tripartite talks on Electronics:

The Tripartite Working Group of Electronic Experts from Egypt, India and Yugoslavia have recommended the setting up of a joint venture project in Egypt by the three partners for the assembly of electronic business and accounting machines using micro processors.

Meeting in Cairo from December 5 to 8 the Group also recommended the establishment of a TV Glass Shells Plant in India and the export of Black and White TV picture tubes produced in Egypt to Yugoslavia and India. India will assist Egypt in the production of certain sub-assemblies in the T. V. field.

The negotiations on the Indian side were livid by Shri R. M. Nayar, Managing Director, Electronic Trade and Technology Development Corporation, New Delhi. Egypt was represented by Mr. Aly Ismail, Chairman of El Nasar T.V. Company, From Yugoslavia Madame Nada Kircanski and Mr. Miodrag Apostolovic participated in the negotiations.

These recommendations will be considered in the next meeting of the Ministers from the three countries scheduled to be held in New Delhi.

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EGYPT INDIA YUGOSLAVIA USA

Date : Dec 01, 1977

Volume No

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INDIA AND E E C

Coir and Jute Agreements

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 7, 1977 on the Coir and Jute Agreements between India and EEC:

The Coir and Jute Agreements between India and the European Economic Community, were signed in New Delhi on December 7, 1977 by Dr. P. C. Alexander, Union Commerce Secretary on behalf of India and by Mr. M. Caspari, Deputy Director General for External Relations, Commission of the EEC on behalf of the EEC. The Agreement was negotiated last year. The earlier sectoral agreements on coir and jute expired in December 1975.

These Sectoral Agreements are derived from the larger Commercial Cooperation Agreement between India and the EEC, which provides for devising ways and means of overcoming trade barriers and in particular existing non-tariff and quasi-tariff barriers in the various sectors of trade.

Under the new Coir Agreements, the tariffs on imports of Coir products into the Community from India were suspended to the extent of 80 per cent of July 1, 1976. The tariffs will be reduced to zero on January 1, 1978. There would be no new quantitative restriction on coir imports into the Community. There is a provision for a Joint Co-operation Committee in order to investigate the possibilities of cooperation in production methods, research and development of new techniques of preparing and manufacturing coir and coir goods for expanding the uses of coir, develop contacts and facilitate joint projects between representatives of trade and

industry on both sides.

Under the new Jute Agreement it has been accepted that the imports of jute products into the Community will not be subjected to new quantitative restrictions. The Agreement provides in principle for the elimination in stages of the existing quantitative restrictions. The tariffs on jute yarn stand totally suspended on January 1, 1977 and on other stipulated categories of jute products, the tariffs would remain suspended to the extent of 80 per cent on January 1, 1977 and further would be totally eliminated on July 1, 1978 which date has now been advanced to January 1, 1978.

Quotas for the various categories of jute products with growth provision have been provided for in the present Agreement. The Agreement contains provisions for carry over and anticipated utilisation of quotas, transfer of quotas between the various categories etc. which have imparted some flexibility in the operation of the Agreement.

As in the Coir Agreement, an important feature of this Jute Agreement also is the establishment of a Joint Cooperation Committee entrusted with examining ways and means of increasing and diversifying the end uses of jute products, promoting research and development cooperation, developing contacts and facilitating joint projects and programmes between jute interests on both sides.

Exports of coir manufactures to the Community were of the order of Rs. 132.4 million in 1976-77 while exports of jute manufactures were worth Rs. 216.8 million in 1976-77.

Mr. M. Caspari has had an opportunity to visit a few coir centres and other small scale and cottages industry in Kerala during his visit.

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INDIA USA RUSSIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Dec 01, 1977

Volume No

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INDIA AND F A O

India Re-elected to Council

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 2, 1977 on India's re-election to the F. A. O.:

India has been re-elected to the FAO Council for a three year term beginning January 1979. India secured 111 votes out of 119 valid votes in the first ballot.

The election for the seats falling vacant for the terms ending in November 1977 and in December 1978 was held at the recent session of the FAO Conference held at Rome. India is the Member of the Council right from its inception in 1947. Its Membership was to expire in December 1978.

The Members of the Council are elected for a period of three years by the FAO Conference which meets every two years. One-third of the members of the Council retire every year.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation council consisting of 42 members is the Executive Body of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. The Council, within the limits of the powers delegated to it by the Conference, acts between Conference sessions on behalf of the FAO as its executive organ. In particular, it exercises functions connected with the world food and agriculture situation and related matters, current and prospective activities of the Organization, including its programme of work and budget, administrative matters and financial management of the Organization and constitutional matters.

INDIA ITALY

Date : Dec 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND UNICEF

Assistance for Processed Foods Plant

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 29, 1977 on the UNICEF assistance for processed food plant:

The United Nations Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) is providing an assistance of Rs. 1 crore (US \$ 1.2 million) for setting up a processed foods plant at Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh. A Plan of Operation to this effect was signed in New Delhi on December 29, 1977 by Shri R. Balasubramanian, Union Food Secretary and Mr. T. Glan Davies, Regional Director, UNICEF.

With a capacity of 20 tonnes per day the plant will have an annual production of worth Rs. 30 million. It will use locally available cereals and pulses for the production of processed foods fortified with vitamins and minerals.

The project which will benefit nearly two lakh beneficiaries per day will be managed jointly by the Union Department of Food and the Government of Andhra Pradesh through the Andhra Pradesh Nutrition Council.

These ready-to-eat products are meant for expanding the Government's social welfare programmes for school and pre-school children, pregnant women and lactating mothers in order to improve their nutritional

status.

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INDIA USA

Date : Dec 01, 1977

Volume No

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IRAN

Air Chief Returns from Visit

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 23, 1977 on the visit of Air Marshal Moolgavkar, to Iran:

Air Chief Marshal H. Moolgavkar, Chief of the Air Staff, returned to New Delhi on December 23, 1977 after a five-day visit to Iran, at the invitation of the Commander-in-Chief of the Imperial Iranian Air Force, Lieutenant General A. H. Rabii.

During his stay in Iran, the Chief of the Air Staff visited the Iranian Air Force establishments and had an opportunity to exchange views on matters of mutual interest.

Air Marshal Moolgavkar had an audience with His Majesty the Shah of Iran who warmly reciprocated the greetings and good wishes conveyed to him on behalf of the President and the Prime Minister of India.

IRAN INDIA

Date : Dec 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

IRAN

Widening of Railway Collaboration Between India and Iran

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 21, 1977 when the Iranian Minister of Transport and Roads met Shri Madhu Dandavate:

Mr. Morteza Salehi, Minister of Transport and Roads, Imperial Government of Iran on December 21, 1977 held fruitful discussions with the Minister for Railways, Prof. Madhu Dandavate on further widening of the fields of collaboration between the two railways.

Mr. Morteza Salehi, accompanied by Mr. M. T. Diba, President, Iranian State Railways, arrived in Delhi on December 20, 1977 at the invitation of Prof. Madhu Dandavate to visit railway installations, projects and production units of the Indian Railways to explore further areas of collaboration.

The Iranian Minister said that when the Iranian State Railways took up the construction of the 700 km long Ban ar Abbas - Bafq railway line, they would take into consideration the offer made by Indian Railway Construction Company (IRCON). The offer of the Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES) to carry out the Phase II studies for Kerman - Shurgaz rail link will also be considered at the appropriate time. The preliminary studies of this project had already been carried out by the RITES.

Mr. Morteza Salehi evinced keen interest in the training facilities available on the Indian Railways. He felt that there was scope for collaboration between the two railways in the manufacture of concrete slippers.

He made enquiries about the designing and manufacture of diesel and electric locomotives and coaches.

Prof. Madhu Dandavate assured the Iranian Minister of Indian Railways' readiness to fully cooperate with the Iranian State Railways in whatever field it was required. The Railway Minister also gave a brief resume of the vastness of the Indian Railways and how much self-reliant was this vast network in designing, manufacture, operations and maintenance of equipment and rolling stock. He informed his Iranian counter-part that the import substitution on the Indian Railways had been gradually reduced to the bare minimum of 8 per cent.

Shri Sheo Narain, Minister of State for Railways, members of the Railway Board and senior officials of RITES were present at the discussions.

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IRAN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC RUSSIA

Date : Dec 01, 1977

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ITALY

Joint Committee Meeting

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 12, 1977 on the Indo-Italian Joint Committee meeting on economic cooperation:

The deliberations of the Indo-Italian Joint Committee on Economic Cooperation which began on December 6, 1977 concluded on December 12, 1977. The agreed minutes of the meeting were signed by Dr. P. C. Alexander, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

on behalf of the Government of India and by Avv. Raffaello Trioli, Director General of Italian Ministry of Foreign Trade on behalf of the Government of Italy. Both the delegations included official representatives and also members of the trade and industry.

It was noted that although the trade balance with Italy was against during 1974-75 and 1975-76, it turned favourable to India during 1976-77. In this context, it was indicated that India was equally interested in providing adequate import opportunities in the context of her needs for industrial raw materials, machinery, new technology etc. The current import policy would in fact, provide such opportunities for Italian exports to India, as for example leather machinery.

COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES

The Joint Committee had in-depth discussions relating to commercial exchanges, industrial cooperation and joint ventures, shipping and financial and credit matters. The discussions revealed the need, scope and potentials for not only enlarging the mutual commercial exchanges but also diversify into new lines of cooperation. In this connection, the Joint Committee examined possibilities of promoting trade in various items including leather, coal, iron ore, tobacco, spices, marine products and engineering goods such as auto parts, hand-tools small and cutting tools, diesel engines and parts, motor cycle parts, textile machinery, machine tools etc.

The Joint Committee identified new areas for industrial cooperation which included engineering plastics, tannery technology, electronics, processing of silk wastes, drugs and pharmaceuticals, diesel generating sets, marble and granite cutting.

Specific possibilities of cooperation between Indian and Italian firms for projects in third countries were examined. These included Viscose fibre plant, fertilizer project, transmission line projects, sugar mill etc.

The Joint Committee examined also the various shipping matters including ship pur-

chases, repairs, and shipping arrangements and also financial & credit matters.

During their stay in India, the leader of the Italian delegation alongwith the Italian Ambassador called on the Commerce Minister, Shri Mohan Dharia. The Italian delegation had extensive discussions on matters of mutual interest with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Federation of Indian Export Organisations. The members of the delegation representing private trade and industry had extensive discussions with their Indian counterparts.

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ITALY INDIA USA

Date : Dec 01, 1977

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JAPAN

Business Cooperation Committee Meeting

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 8, 1977 on the Indo-Japanese Business Cooperation Committee meeting:

The Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee has recommended laying greater emphasis on joint ventures in third countries.

This was one of the recommendations made by the Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee at the conclusion of its two-day 10th joint meeting held in Tokyo on December 6 and 7.

Wide ranging discussions were held on economic affairs including trade, investment

and technical collaboration bilaterally, and in third countries, small scale industries and agricultural productivity. The two sides exchanged views on the state of economy in each country and concluded that the time was propitious for evolving schemes on the basis of the complementary nature of the economies of Japan and India.

Other decisions of the Committee included study of procedures, identification of concrete projects and proposals and increased exchange of educational and management experience in the field of small-scale industries.

It was agreed that concrete proposals for Japanese assistance for the development in Indian agriculture, including horticulture, fisheries, livestock, soil conservation, water management and forestry would be studied. Consideration would also be given to the setting up of a standing committee to follow the Committee's decisions.

The Indian delegation was headed by Shri B. P. Poddar, President of the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Japanese delegation by Dr. Shigeo Nagano, President of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held In New Delhi in December 1978.

JAPAN USA INDIA

Date : Dec 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Azad Memorial Lecture -- Shri Vajpayee's Welcome to Dr. Okita

Presiding over the Azad Memorial Lecture function in New Delhi on December 13, 1977, the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee said:

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As President of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, it is my very great pleasure to welcome Dr. Saburo Okita and request him to deliver the Azad Memorial Lecture this evening. This will be the fifteenth in the series of lectures instituted in 1959, as a memorial to the founder of I.C.C.R. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. This ceremony should normally have taken place in February this year, but the momentous events which overtook the nation in the spring of 1977, led perforce to the postponement of this lecture till today.

Maulana Azad, to whose memory we pay homage this evening, was a worthy son of Mother India. Amongst the foremost in the struggle for freedom, he proved himself after independence, to be as great a Parliamentarian as he was a democrat. With his erudition, courtly manners and personal piety, Maulana Saheb represented the best in the Indian tradition. His liberal humanism added an extra dimension to his profound scholarship. He was, indeed, a fine flower of Indian culture.

In his capacity as the first Minister of Education in the Republic of India, he was acutely aware that pride in one's cultural identity had to grow before patriotism and genuine independence of mind could be truly established. Conscious of the fact that our unique civilisation had survived 5,000 years

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and flourished, notwithstanding the powerful influences from outside to suppress it during the period of colonial subjugation, Maulana Azad took measures to foster, revive and reinforce the Indian culture and renew our cultural links with other countries. It is with this laudable objective that the Indian Council for Cultural Relations was conceived and set up. Under its aegis, I hope that we will continue to draw from all

parts of the world the kind of talent and ideas that would enrich and revitalise our own social consciousness, through a reaffirmation of the values of tolerance, integrity and humanism, so dear to the heart of Maulana Azad.

INDIAN POLITY

This year, when the Indian polity has gone through a second baptism by fire, it is appropriate that we renew our pledge to the ideals which our founding fathers believed in. On this occasion, we are fortunate to have an Economist of such eminence from Japan. Dr. Okita's modest temperament would prevent his claiming so, but he can justly be called the architect of Japan's post-war recovery, which is regarded as one of the economic miracles of our times. Dr. Okita's success lies in the fact that his vision sees economic principles and problems in the larger perspective of national, international, historical and environmental factors. He is perhaps one of those experts whose solutions have found visible demonstration.

Early in his career, during the last world War, Dr. Okita put forward a bold proposal to switch over from industrial production geared to a war economy, to food grains, soyabeans and salt for post-war survival. It is to his credit that this proposal was accepted, which averted the addition of a famine to Japan's post-war problems. In the immediate post war period, Dr. Okita and his colleagues bent their effort to combat an economic collapse, in the midst of Allied Occupation and the demilitarisation of Japan. The worst problem even then was spiralling inflation and a severe depression. Nevertheless, by maintaining the independence of Japanese economy through normal export trade as a major goal, and by allowing the principles of free market mechanism to operate, it was possible to recover Japan's economic activity to the pre-war level by the end of the 50s. Then, the National Income Doubling Plan mapped out in 1960 proved a momentous landmark in transforming Japanese economy from one of post-war reconstruction to that of a spectacular growth. The major credit for this Plan goes to Dr.

Okita and his colleagues and for his outstanding performance as Director General of the Planning Bureau of the Economic Planning Agency of Japan - the post he held with distinction from 1956 to 1963.

ASIAN REALITY

However, Dr. Okita does not view his mission in the narrow focus of his own country's prosperity, but in the larger context of the Asian reality, functioning within the framework of international economic forces. He is all too aware of the dilemma of an affluent society - the problems of environmental pollution, of urban deterioration and the devaluation of the quality of life. On the other hand, his is the sobering influence which warns, even in the midst of the present euphoria of affluence that "the key problem which will confront Japan in the years ahead is how to live harmoniously with other nations of the World, how to behave in the world economy in a responsible fashion as befits its greatly expanded economic growth".

Dr. Okita is no stranger to India. For years he has been the Chairman of the Japan-India Joint Committee on Economic Development and has written widely on international economic relations, Asian economic development etc. We in this country face an entirely different spectrum of economic problems chiefly arising out of our colonial past. We are at the cross-roads of development and of a social revolution, which spins off problems towards which Dr. Okita has shown sensitive and sympathetic appreciation.

TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

In the international field, we have worked patiently and hard, together with fellow developing countries, to achieve progress on such key issues as the transfer of technology and resources, the crushing debt burden of the developing countries, and for freer access

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to markets etc. We have also tried to project the special problems of oil importing developing countries whose vulnerable econo-

mics have been severely affected in recent years. As I have mentioned at other international fora, the challenge before us is how to balance national responsibilities with the imperatives of international cooperation.

JAPAN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date : Dec 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

KENYA

T D A Secures Contract

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 20, 1977 on the Trade Development Authority securing international consultancy contract:

The Trade Development Authority has secured an international consultancy contract from the Commonwealth Secretariat, London, for organising a Buyer-Seller Meet for Kenya in May 1978 at New York. An Agreement to this effect was signed, in New Delhi on December 20, 1977 by Shri B. D. Jayal, Director, Export Market Development, of the Commonwealth Secretariat and by Shri N. K. Bharadwaj, Executive Director of TDA.

Under this Agreement, T D A would assist and advise Kenya External Trade Authority in the planning, organisation and execution of the Buyer-Seller Meet called as "Kenya Trade Forum" at New York. The TDA would assist the Kenya External Trade Authority in identifying the range of products for display and capable manufacturers, assist in test marketing of the exhibits, preparation of quick brief market surveys, selection of publicity media and in buyer contact promotion.

The Trade Development Authority has developed over the years proficiency in and worked on the technique of organising Buyer-Seller Meets as an effective instrument of trade promotion. It has already organised six such trade meets in United States during 1976 and 1977. The present Agreement with the Commonwealth Secretariat may be a pace-setter for similar agreements with other developing countries for consultancy services.

KENYA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA RUSSIA

Date : Dec 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

LIBYA

Railway Delegation in India

The following is the text of a press release is-sued in New Delhi on December 18, 1977 on the visit of the Libyan Railway delegation to India:

A six member railway delegation from Libya has come to India to discuss matters of technical interest with the Indian Railways.

Arriving in Bombay on December 13, 1977 the delegation has already visited the suburban services, third ghat line works, the Integral Coach Factory, central train control installations and the Concrete Sleeper Factory in Bombay, Madras and Hyderabad.

Members of the delegation were also shown the iron ore loading operations at Vizag Port.

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LIBYA INDIA USA

Date : Dec 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

Education Minister Calls on Dr. Chunder

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 26, 1977 on the visit of the Mauritius Education Minister:

India has promised all possible help to Mauritius in the field of education. The assurance was given to the Mauritius Education Minister, Shri Jagat Singh, when he called on the Union Minister for Education, Social Welfare and Culture, Dr. P. C. Chunder, in New Delhi on December 26, 1977.

Handing over draft proposals to Dr. Chunder, Shri Jagat Singh said that his Government wanted to raise standards of Primary education especially. It was proposed to establish five Bal Bhavans as a pilot project. They would also like to have India's help in the matter of training of Primary teachers.

In order to improve the standards of Hindi teaching, the Mauritius Education Minister said, they wanted to subscribe to Indian educational and other publications for the benefit of teachers.

Mauritius would also be interested in producing a light and sound programme on its history with the help of Indian experts, added Shri Jagat Singh.

MAURITIUS USA INDIA

Date : Dec 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Banquet Speech by Prime Minister of Nepal H.E. Mr. K. N. Bista

The following is the text of speech by H.E. Mr. Kirti Nidhi Bista, Prime Minister of Nepal, at the State Banquet by Command of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Nepal in honour of Shri Morarji Desai, at the State Hall, Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, on December 9, 1977:

Your Majesties, Your Excellency the Prime Minister of India, distinguished guests and friends,

It has been a great pleasure for us to have the opportunity of welcoming the Prime Minister of India, His Excellency Shri Morarji Desai, in our country. It is a privilege for me, as commanded by Their Majesties the King and Queen, to hold this State Banquet in honour of the eminent and respected guest.

Your Excellency, on this occasion may I once again extend our warmest and most cordial welcome to you and the distinguished members of your entourage. You are familiar with our country. It was a decade ago that you first honoured us by your visit - a visit which led to better understanding and fruitful cooperation between our two countries. We recall that visit with pleasure. It was on the occasion of your prior visit also that I had the honour to welcome you on behalf of His Majesty's Government. Not only do I cherish the pleasant memory of that occasion, I also highly value the bond of friendship which developed between us.

We in Nepal regard you, Mr. Prime

Minister, as a great leader of your people, the friendly people of India, a leader with integrity of character and courage of con-

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viction. By your lifelong and selfless dedication to the service of the people of India, you have proved yourself to be a symbol of all that is best in the Indian tradition and culture.

MULTIPLE TIES

Since time immemorial, Nepal and India have remained close - close not only because of geographical proximity but also because of the multiple ties of friendship which have their moorings in a long tradition cultural, social and other contacts existing between the people of Nepal and the people of India.

The leaders of our two countries share a common responsibility to see that these deep-rooted ties of friendship are further strengthened. With our commitment to the principles of Panchshila, Non-Alignment and the United Nations Charter, our two countries share a similar vision of world peace and a new international economic order based on equality of nations, and progress, prosperity and justice for all mankind. We are similarly dedicated to the upliftment of our own peoples. These common ideals have enriched the tradition of our friendship and broadened the areas of cooperation between our countries.

VAST DEVELOPMENTS

We have watched with great interest and satisfaction the vast developments that have taken place in India in the last decades in economic, scientific, technological and other fields. We have profited from your experiences and have also admired the determination which the people and Government of India have shown in tackling the gigantic task of nation-building. We naturally feel happy at the successes that you have achieved, and sincerely wish you, in the years ahead, greater heights of success. I should like to reiterate our belief that the peace, progress and stability of our neighbours con-

tribute to the cause of peace, progress and stability of our own.

Despite her own pressing needs, India has generously contributed to our own efforts towards development. In these efforts we have received the assistance and cooperation of many friendly countries and international organizations. Among those who have helped us, India occupies an Important place. We are grateful to the people and Government of India for this spirit of friendship and co-operation.

DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP

We are, as Your Excellency is well aware, striving hard, under the wise, dynamic and able leadership of His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, for achieving the all-round development of the country. Since your last visit which was ten years ago, our nation has achieved creditable success in her efforts towards rapid development in economic, social, political and other fields of national endeavour. I have no doubt that Your Excellency will have the opportunity of acquainting yourself personally with some of - those achievements. These have been possible within the framework of the Party-less Panchayat Democratic System - a path which we are determined to pursue with courage and conviction.

Peace and development are complementary to each other. Just as we believe that development can take place only in an atmosphere of peace, so we believe that peace can be achieved only through development. All our policies and actions are motivated by this belief. This is the rationale behind our proposition that our country be declared a zone of peace.

HIGH-LEVEL VISITS

Your Excellency, it is a matter of satisfaction that in recent months exchange of high-level visits has taken place between Nepal and India. Their Majesties the King and Queen's informal visit to India in March/April of this year has greatly contributed to better understanding between the two coun-

tries. This Royal visit was followed in July by the official visit to Nepal of the Minister of External Affairs, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee. We regard Your Excellency's present visit both as a manifestation of Nepal-India friendship and as an important part of the continuing high-level dialogue between the two neighbouring countries. I am confident that your visit will usher in a new era of friendship, cooperation and trust.

Since your assumption of the office of Prime Minister of India, you have repeatedly emphasized the policy of genuine non-alignment and the need for improving relations

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with neighbours. A new approach based on a sober and mature appreciation of things has been discernible in the policy of the Government of India. This has been happily reflected in your understanding of our sensitivity about trade and transit and agreeing to our longstanding legitimate position to have separate treaties on these matters

MUTUAL TRUST

His Majesty's Government sincerely wants to foster the climate of understanding and goodwill. We want to develop and reinforce the traditional and cordial relations existing between our two countries by widening the scope of cooperation for the benefit of our peoples. It is our firm belief that the relations between Nepal and India should be based on a solid foundation of mutual trust and cooperation, and understanding of each other's problems and aspirations. I wish to assure Your Excellency that these feelings will continue to guide us in our relations with India.

May I humbly request the gracious permission of Their Majesties the King and Queen to propose a toast to the good health and happiness of His Excellency the President of India; to the good health and happiness of His Excellency the Prime Minister of India, Shri Morarji Desai; to the peace, prosperity and happiness of the friendly people of India; and to the ever-growing friendship between India and Nepal.

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Shri Morarji Desai's Speech

The following is the text of the speech by the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, at the State Banquet given in his honour at Kathmandu on December 9, 1977:

Your Majesties, the Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Excellencies and friends,

I am touched by your kind words of welcome and sincerely reciprocate the warmth and depth of feelings of amity and affection expressed by you. I come as the I-lead of a new Government representing the people of India and cannot but take these sentiments as reflecting the feelings of His Majesty's Government and people of Nepal for my country. I recall that on the last occasion when I came as Deputy Prime Minister, even then you, Mr. Prime Minister, as the Deputy Prime Minister at that time of this country, were my host. I have cherished the memories of your hospitality and consider it a good omen that after the lapse of ten years and the ups and downs of our respective political lives, we meet today with enhanced burdens but reflecting the same spirit of friendliness and dedication to our countries' interests which characterised our exchanges so many years ago.

HISTORIC CHANGE

It was also a good augury that within days of assumption of office by my Party

after a historic change in our national political life, we had the privilege of welcoming His Majesty as our first important visitor to India. Like the Everest, Nepal must be the peak of the whole edifice of our friendships. In the exchange of views which I had the privilege to hold with His Majesty in April, we perceived that a new chapter has been opened in our relations - a chapter where mistrust is removed through frankness and friendship grows through co-operation and trust.

My colleague, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, visited many countries as a member of the Opposition but came to Kathmandu only after he assumed the reins of office. Then, when he came, as he said, he came both to show deference to our friendship and as a pilgrim to this sacred land. Both of us today, therefore, rejoice at being in your midst because we are certain that the well being of India and Nepal depends on trust and friendship between us.

In our view, the exchange of high level and meaningful visits between our two countries can never be too frequent because friendship between us can never be too close. As I mentioned to His Majesty, there is no ground or reason for suspicion and hesitation in our relationship. My conversations today with His Majesty and with Your Excellency have renewed my complete confidence that

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with goodwill between us and mutual sensitivity to the enlightened interests of each other, no problems are beyond our determination to solve.

INNER COURAGE

A year ago, or even less, no one (and perhaps this includes Vajpayeeji and myself) could have expected that we would have the privilege to be here in official capacities as guests of His Majesty's Government. We have been placed in positions of responsibilities by the will of our people. To my mind, the political events in our country, which have put us into our present positions, can all be traced to the leadership and guidance

of the father of our nation, Mahatma Gandhi. He taught the people of India to be fearless, to have inner courage and deep commitment to freedom and moral values. The general elections this year demonstrated that no leader should take the people for granted or flout their rights and feelings. My colleagues and I are deeply conscious that we have to be Worthy of the great trust placed in us and that we will have to work to fulfil the expectations of the common man.

HEIR TO ANCIENT CIVILIZATION

Your Majesty, Your Excellency, you will have heard that in the fundamentals of our foreign Policy Our Government remains dedicated to the principles of independence, non-alignment and friendship towards all regardless of their social, political or economic systems. We believe in non-interference in another country's internal affairs just as we will not countenance interference in our own. While we cherish the hope of promoting our relations with all nations, my Government is specially determined to make more sincere and purposeful efforts to remove frictions and to improve the quality of our relations with our neighbours. This sub-continent of ours is heir to an ancient civilization with a deep tradition of peace and tolerance. It has no history of conquest or tradition of superiority. It has been the home of, many races and many religions. It was only foreign imperialism which vitiated this tradition.

Consistent with our dedication to the principles of co-existence, we seek to resolve problems through negotiations and, if need be, even by sacrifices and compromises. We would like the entire region to be relieved of fear and tension, so that our energies and resources can be geared to constructive endeavours. Our nations must fight want and demoralization amongst our respective peoples and not fight each other. In fact, we have reason to feel satisfied that today in the entire region to which we belong there is a better atmosphere of good neighbourliness than has existed in the past 30 years. God willing, in this spirit and with the combined and harmonised efforts of the leaders and peoples of all the countries in this region,

we can make our subcontinent truly a region of peace, stability and cooperation. This subcontinent has the challenge and opportunity to prove to the world that the great tradition of peace of our common civilization thrives even in these troublesome and tension-ridden modern times. In this, Nepal and India can be an example and give a lead to herald this new era of peace and cooperation in the entire region. After all, Nepal and India have unique ties of religion, culture, and economic inter-dependence. We are two sovereign independent nations but we treat the citizens of each country like nationals of our own. Our border is free and not riddled with military, customs or immigration outposts. No text book on the theory of international relations contains an exact parallel to the pattern of relations which exist between our two sovereign nations. Our inter-dependence is such that we can only prosper together. On the other hand, by denying the logic of geography, the heritage of history and the unity decreed by Providence, we may invite the curses of our future generations. The task before us is to cooperate as equal partners to harness the bounty of nature which we share. We must preserve our forests, limit the damage by floods and inundation and harness the energy from our waters. Working together, Nepal can become a land of plenty. Only such surplus of water and energy which Nepal cannot use, need be made available to meet the dire needs of my own people.

From all that I gather His Majesty and his Government are inspired by the vision of development for this ancient Kingdom. His Majesty himself is personally participating and giving direction to the country's planned development. We are happy to learn that the purpose is that the benefits of development are sought to reach the lowliest and the poorest in all corners of this mountain Kingdom.

PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

I know that Nepal has many nations who are partners in its programme of development. For our part, we in India have

considered it a privilege to have lent a hand in plans which have priority in your national development. I can pledge to Your Majesty and the people of Nepal that our unflinching commitment to share your burdens in an effort to bring prosperity to the country.

As I said, the actual strategy of development or even your policies of trade are within the rights of sovereign Nepal to determine. May I assure you that India has every interest to help your efforts for the diversification of Nepal's commercial and economic links but I am convinced that Nepal would have equal sensitivity to prevent any such policies which may affect the path chosen by India towards our own economic self-reliance. As friends, with unique links between US, it serves us both to understand each other's needs and policies. The edifice of Indo-Nepal friendship stands on the pillars of equality, trust and mutual respect and understanding of each other's aspirations. The benefits of our connections and our cooperation are immense. To allow pettiness or small gains by anti-social elements, would be only to betray our destiny and be unworthy of our heritage. I am confident that under His Majesty's leadership, this will not happen. On the contrary, I am sure that the ancient tradition of our friendship would grow from strength to strength and give no comfort to those who wish ill either to Nepal or to India or to our friendship and cooperation.

I request you, Your Majesty, Your Excellency, I request all guests to join with me to raise your glasses in toast for the long life, health and happiness of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Nepal, for the long life and happiness of the Rt. Hon'ble Shri Kirti Nidhi Bista, for the progress and prosperity of the people of Nepal, and for the ancient and eternal bonds of friendship between India and Nepal.

NEPAL INDIA USA

Date : Dec 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Shri Morarji Desai's Address at the Civic Reception

The following are excerpts from the Prime Minister's address at the Civic Reception in Kathmandu on December 10, 1977:

Hon'ble Pradhan Panch of Kathmandu Nagar Panchayat, and this distinguished gathering,

Thank you, Mr. President, for your address of welcome which you have just presented to me. I look upon it as an affirmation of the bonds which bring together the people of Nepal and the people of India. I am but an old - but not yet a weary - soldier in the struggle for the emancipation and dignity of the Indian people. Next to welfare of India, there is nothing as dear to my heart as peace and friendship in the whole world. In that goal, no country is dearer and more important to us than the Kingdom of Nepal. I have come to Kathmandu to reaffirm and strengthen the bonds of neighbourliness, affection and friendship which bind us both. We share everything which transcends the bonds of time and politics. We are part of one of the most ancient civilizations; we belong to the same culture. As long as the Himalayas remain where they do and the oceans where they are, no government in India or Nepal can have any purpose but to win the trust and affection of the people who reside south and north of our common border.

LIGHT OF ASIA

The Light of Asia, Lord Buddha, was born here in Nepal. The message he gave of peace and toleration inspired the entire world. We, the peoples of India and Nepal, can be proud of being the children of the land of Gautam Buddha. My mentor, Mahatma Gandhi, lived and worked in the spirit of the

Buddha. When he pledged us to the path of Ahimsa and Truth, he raised us from the dust and from degradation because he taught us the courage to banish fear and hold our heads high. It was with Truth and Non-violence as our weapons that we defeated an Empire on which the sun was believed

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never to set. If we in India have emerged to a new burst of freedom, it is because we have re-discovered the unending validity of these moral imperatives. We are re-embarked on the quest to fight fear and to work to free our people from want and degradation. We have re-dedicated ourselves to re-build India so that our progress is not for the few but for all sections of our society. You may hear to read some questioning whether our programme of ensuring for all our people within ten years fulfilment of their basic needs and gainful employment will succeed. We are again an open book where our friends as well as critics can judge our endeavours. But we have an unmistakable Mandate from a people who rejected authoritarianism. With this inspiration and a clear sense of discipline we are confident that we shall attain our goals of social welfare and justice which is what our people expect of us.

Mr. President and friends, I know that under the leadership of His Majesty, Nepal, through its own chosen path, seeks the same goals of welfare and prosperity for the whole of Nepal.

As far as my Government is concerned, we shall persist in our determination to pay the deepest deference to Nepal and to win and preserve the trust of your people. It is a privilege to join in your progress and development. We ask only for real friendship on the basis of true equality and mutual faith and trust. With faith in our future, we can make this region of diverse nations south of the Great Himalayas, dependent on the rivers which bind us, an area of stability and co-operation, where peace will prevail, with confidence not on the basis of any declaration but in the knowledge that our civilization had bequeathed to us a legacy of tole-

ration and peace. If our region remains free of tension, it can command a great voice in the comity of nations. It can be a shining example of how our ancient heritage can be transformed to modern progress. It can be a bridge to link the economic chasm which divides the world.

I once again thank you, Mr. President, and the citizens of this city for organizing this reception. On my return home I will convey your greetings to the citizens of Delhi, our capital city.

NEPAL USA INDIA

Date : Dec 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Joint Communiqué

Text of the Joint Communiqué issued on December 11, 1977 at the conclusion of the goodwill visit to Nepal of Shri Morarji Desai, the Prime Minister of India:

At the invitation of the Prime Minister of Nepal, the Rt. Hon'ble Shri Kirti Nidhi Bista, His Excellency Shri Morarji Desai, the Prime Minister of India paid a goodwill visit to Nepal from the 9th to 11th December, 1977. The Prime Minister of India was accompanied by the Foreign Minister of India, His Excellency Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Shri V. Shankar, Foreign Secretary, Shri J. S. Mehta and other senior officials of the Government of India. In his talks with the Prime Minister of India, the Prime Minister of Nepal was assisted by His Excellency the Foreign Minister of Nepal, H.E. Prof. Krishna Raj Aryal, the Foreign Secretary of

Nepal, Shri U. D. Bhatt, and other senior officials of His Majesty's Government of Nepal. The Royal Nepalese Ambassador in New Delhi, H.E. Shri Vedanand Jha and the Ambassador of India in Kathmandu, H.E. Shri N. B. Menon, also participated in the talks.

2. The Prime Minister of Nepal appreciated the fact that the Prime Minister of India was able to visit Kathmandu soon after the receipt of his invitation. The Prime Minister of India recalled with warmth the visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Nepal to New Delhi soon after the assumption of office in March 1977, by the new Government in India.

3. His Excellency the Prime Minister was received in audience by His Majesty the King of Nepal during which wide-ranging discussions were held. The two Prime Ministers

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had two rounds of comprehensive discussions.

4. The Prime Minister of India was accorded a Civic Reception by the Kathmandu Nagar Panchayat and attended a meeting arranged in his honour by the Nepal-Bharat Maitri Sangh. The Prime Minister of India, the Foreign Minister of India and the entourage accompanying the Prime Minister, paid their homage to Lord Pashupatinath.

5. The conversations held during the visit of the Prime Minister of India were not only frank and cordial but indicated ready and full understanding on a range of international issues and bilateral problems between the two leaders. The leaders of the two countries recognised that consistent with the traditional relations based on culture, religion and customs, India and Nepal must strengthen their economic cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. The measure of the identity of their views led them to believe that, based on goodwill and trust, a new chapter could be opened in the relations between the two countries,

6. The two Prime Ministers recalled that both countries subscribe to the tenets of non-alignment and peaceful co-existence and adhere to the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations. They welcomed the fact that an improved atmosphere conducive to beneficial cooperation prevailed in the entire region. They shared the sincere hope that this improvement would enable all countries in the area to bend their energies and resources to economic progress and thus consolidate the structure of peace in the region. The Prime Minister of Nepal recalled the proposal for declaring Nepal as a zone of peace. The Prime Minister of India pointed out that he was fully of the view that peace must prevail in the entire area to which India and Nepal belong.

7. The two Prime Ministers readily accepted that mutual cooperation can be enlarged and intensified. The Prime Minister of India affirmed India's determination to continue to participate fully in the developmental programmes of Nepal. In the spirit of this understanding the two Prime Ministers agreed on the following decisions in respect of projects which have been under discussion in the past:

(a) **KARNALI PROJECT:** India affirmed its desire to purchase the surplus power from the project. As a first step, it has already been agreed to establish a committee to examine the preliminary issues with regard to the execution of the project. India has already nominated her representatives for this Committee. It was now decided that the terms of reference would be settled and the Committee will meet within a period of three months and submit its recommendations within one year.

(b) **PANCHESHWAR HYDRO - ELECTRIC PROJECT:** Both sides decided to nominate their representatives within a period of three months to start the joint investigations relating to the Pancheshwar Hydro-Electric Project, to be located on the borders of India and Nepal, on river Mahakali (Sarda). It was also agreed that both the countries will give

all facilities and assistance for the early completion of the investigations.

(e) RAPTI PROJECT: It was noted that the feasibility of a multi-purpose project on river Rapti at Bhalubhang in Nepal has been established and in keeping with their desire for the early execution of the project for the benefit of the two countries, it was agreed that experts of the two sides should meet within one month to finalise the arrangements and to prepare detailed project estimates within two years.

(d) DEVIGHAT HYDRo-ELECTRIC PROJECT: India agreed to execute, on a turn-key basis, the Devighat Hydro-Electric Project utilising the tailrace waters of the Trisuli Hydro-Electric Project for the exclusive benefit of Nepal. It was agreed that the formal agreement to enable commencement of the work should be signed as soon as possible.

8. The two Prime Ministers agreed that separate treaties to cover trade and transit may be concluded expeditiously. It was further decided to provide, at the same time, for effective measures to control unauthorised trade from one country to the other.

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9. The two sides agreed that detailed ground surveys should be undertaken in as efficient and expeditious a manner as possible of the Dolaghat-Khankuta Road.

10. Though the visit of the Prime Minister of India was brief, both sides felt satisfied at the purposeful discussions and the ground covered in these discussions. The visit reinforced the recognition of the value of frequent contacts at higher levels between the two countries. Apart from functional co-operation between officials of the various Ministries and the planning bodies of the two countries, the Prime Ministers agreed that annual consultations should take place between the officials of the two Governments.

11. The Prime Minister of India expressed gratitude for the warmth and hospitality he and his party received in Nepal. He extended an invitation to His Excellency Shri Kirti Nidhi Bista, Prime Minister of Nepal, to visit India at a mutually convenient time. He was pleased to accept the invitation.

NEPAL USA INDIA

Date : Dec 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Prime Minister's Statement in Parliament on his Visit to Nepal

Following is the text of statement made by Prime Minister in Parliament on December 12, 1977 on his visit to Nepal from December 9, to 11, 1977:

Mr. Speaker,

As the House is aware, I returned from Nepal yesterday and I would like to make a brief statement on my visit to our friendly neighbour.

In the wake of the change of Government in Nepal in September this year, the new Prime Minister of Nepal, the Rt. Hon'ble Kirti Nidhi Bista, was kind enough to extend to me an invitation to visit Nepal. Considering the great importance we attach to improvement of relations with our neighbours, I readily accepted the invitation. I was accompanied by and had the benefit of advice of my colleague, the Foreign Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

We are bound to Nepal by ties of geography and mutual economic interests, and by religious, social and cultural bonds between our two peoples in a unique fashion

with no close parallel anywhere in the world.

I was glad to have had an opportunity to convey on behalf of the Government of India to His Majesty, his Government and through them to the people of Nepal that India cherishes the friendship of this ancient kingdom and seeks to promote our relationship in a manner which respects their independence, advances mutual interests and brings benefits to both. I was deeply touched by the spontaneity and the warmth of the reception from all section of the people and His Majesty's Government of Nepal. I also met His Majesty the King and had extensive discussions with Prime Minister Bista. The Joint Communique issued at the end of my visit and placed on the Table of the House, indicates the wide range of discussions that took place and the mutually advantageous agreements reached.

As the Hon. Members will observe from the Joint Communique, there was acknowledgement on both sides of the urgent need further to strengthen our economic cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. In this spirit we agreed that priority should be given to projects on the rivers linking our two countries for multiple benefits and the Devighat Power project to which the Government of Nepal attaches great importance. The scope, significance and urgency of such co-operative effort cannot be exaggerated and the loss to both by delaying this cannot be minimised. Nature's bounty from the Himalayas can be immense and neglect can be very injurious to our interests in future. Specific measures have been agreed to set in motion the process of expeditiously executing four projects on the rivers Karnali, Mahakali, Rapti and Trisuli.

Hon. Members are aware that the Indo-Nepalese Treaty of Trade and Transit of 1971, which had expired in August 1976, had been allowed to roll on while finalisation of new arrangements for this purpose was pending. Discussions at official level had been

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held in the past to workout new arrangements. During my visit we reviewed the discussions held so far and it was agreed

that while trade was a bilateral matter, arrangements for Nepal's transit trade with third countries were separate subjects.

There is a special feature in our economic relations arising out of the open common border. While neither country can deny the other's independent right to determine economic and trade policies, the Prime Minister of Nepal and I readily recognised that we must make every effort to curb in the interests of both our countries unauthorised flow of goods which might cause injury to our economy. We have therefore decided that a separate agreement should be reached which would embody effective measures to control such flows across our open border. The decision to have two treaties and a separate agreement is a reflection of the spirit of respect of each other's independence as well as sensitivity that each country's economic policies do not harm the other.

Hon. Members are well aware that both India and Nepal are committed to the policy of non-alignment and peaceful co-existence. The two Governments are also pledged to adhere to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs- of each other. These principles are most conducive to creating a climate of trust and confidence and imparting an assurance of our friendly interest in the well-being of each other. The further strengthening of Indo-Nepal ties would be in accordance with our deliberate effort to promote true co-operation and thus peace and stability in the entire region.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to His Majesty's Government and the Prime Minister of Nepal for the warmth of hospitality and cordiality of reception that they extended to me and the members of my delegation during our stay. I would also like to extend my very sincere thanks to His Majesty the King and the Queen of Nepal for their hospitality and for the very cordial and frank discussion I had with His Majesty on subjects of common concern. My visit, the discussions which I had and the general atmosphere of warmth and cordiality lead me to believe that apprehensions and misgivings about India's atti-

tude have been removed. The relations have to be restored to one of trustful friendship, as is appropriate between countries whose abiding compulsion must link them in peace and progress.

NEPAL USA INDIA PERU

Date : Dec 01, 1977

Volume No

1995

NIGERIA

Memorandum of Understanding Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 20, 1977 on the setting up of the Joint Commission with Nigeria:

A memorandum of Understanding between India and Nigeria was signed here today by the Union Minister of Industry, Shri George Fernandes and Dr. O. Adewoye, Commissioner for Economic Development of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

It has been agreed that a Joint Commission would be set up to give further impetus to the industrial and economic cooperation between the two countries, in the context of their mutual desire to encourage self-reliance amongst developing nations,

The fields of cooperation which would be covered by the Joint Commission would be as follows: 1. Development of Industries, including small scale industries through joint venture and other forms of cooperation; 2. Agricultural infrastructure; 3. Petroleum and its derivatives; 4. Mining; 5. Civil construction; 6. Transportation; 7. Steel

and other mineral-based industries; 8. Trade and Commerce; 9. Provision of Consultancy services; 10. Deputation of experts; and 11. Training facilities in academic, industrial, technical and technological institutions.

It was agreed by the two Ministers that expertise will be provided by the Geological Survey of India and other organisations of the Government of India for surveys in Nigeria of mineral resources and for development of mining, particularly mining of iron ore and further processing like beneficiation and pelletisation.

The Government of India would also depute experts to Nigeria for cooperation in the prospecting of phosphates and other mineral resources. Supplies of iron ore pellets from India to Nigeria will be further negotiated in detail.

It has also been agreed that services of Engineers India Limited and other organisations would be availed of in training Nigerian scientists, engineers and other personnel and for cooperation in further processing and chemical transformation of the oil and gas resources of Nigeria into fertilizers and petrochemicals to give the products substantial added value.

Hindustan Machine Tools Limited, at the initiative of UNIDO, have prepared a feasibility report for establishing a machine tool complex consisting of machine tool division, training centre, tool room and foundry. It has been agreed by the Nigerian side to give high priority to early implementation of this project.

Cooperation in the field of railways was also discussed. The Indian Ministry of Railways have agreed to provide assistance in the Management of the Nigerian railway system, and also to offer project management services and supervision of construction in respect of work undertaken by the Nigerian railways. Further negotiations are to be held for construction of railway line in Nigeria and for supply of railway rolling stock.

The Nigerian Government have desired to avail of Indian expertise and capabilities in developing small scale industries and industrial estates. At the request of the Nigerian Government, the Indian side has agreed to set up an Industrial Development Centre in Nigeria for development of small scale and rural industries.

In the fields of consultancy and civil construction, interest has been expressed for Indian cooperation in setting up a National Consultancy Organisation and Technology Transfer Centre in Nigeria. Further areas of cooperation were also identified in Nigeria in respect of construction works, housing, up-gradation of roads and construction of new roads.

In the sector of agriculture and irrigation, the Nigerian side have agreed to further discussions with team of experts from India during February\March, 1978. The supply of hybrid red oil palm seeds will help in the implementation of the programme of the Government of India for raising red oil palm plantations in the country as part of the scheme to bridge the gap between demand and supply of vegetable oil.

In respect of irrigation, several areas were identified for cooperation relating to river basin development, construction of dams, multi-purpose projects including hydel projects, water management and water resources development.

The Nigerian delegation indicated priority needs of Nigeria in the field of education for which cooperation from India is required. This will include technical teachers, training of teachers of Nigerian technical institutions, training of technicians and professional personnel in engineering medical and allied fields and recruitment of Indian technical and university lecturers. India would assist in deputation of personnel for 50 posts of polytechnic teachers in various fields of technology and to provide training courses in India for training of Nigerian teachers for polytechnics. It has also been agreed that in plant and on the job training would be provided for Nigerian engineers and technicians in India in

specialised fields.

The Nigerian Government will consider setting up of an Institute of Technology for graduate and post-graduate training and research with Indian cooperation. India has also agreed to the request of the Nigerian side for placement of about 500 Nigerians each year predominantly in various non-degree courses in technical institutions in India.

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It has also been agreed at the request of the Nigerian Commissioner in his discussions with the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission to arrange for continuous exchange of ideas on the process of planning.

Dr. O. Adewoye had also discussions with Indian Ministers of Steel & Mines, Finance, External Affairs, Commerce and the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission. He and his delegation visited several projects and institutions including industrial estates for small scale industries, Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants, Heavy Engineering Corporation and Bokaro Steel.

Detailed discussions were held at the official level under the chairmanship of Shri V. Krishnamurthy, Secretary, Deptt. of Heavy Industry for working out an implementation time-frame in respect of various conclusions of the Memorandum of Understanding. There is good scope for further development of economic and industrial co-operation between the two countries.

There are several joint industrial ventures in Nigeria and export of engineering goods including trucks has picked up considerably. Recently MECON have been awarded a prestigious contract for setting up a one million tonne steel plant in Warri in Nigeria.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the two Ministers has identified further areas of cooperation in several important sectors of the economy and is expected to give further boost to implementation of several projects of economic and industrial co-operation between India and Nigeria.

NIGER NIGERIA INDIA USA LATVIA

Date : Dec 01, 1977

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NORWAY

Assistance for Family Welfare Programme

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 27, 1977 on the Norwegian assistance for family welfare programme:

The Norwegian Ambassador Mr. Per Gulowsen presented in New, Delhi on December 27, 1977 a cheque for Rs. 2.5 crores as his country's assistance for the All India Hospitals Post Partum Programme. Shrimati Serla Grewal, Additional Secretary and Commissioner (Family Welfare) in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, received the cheque and thanked the Ambassador.

The All India Hospitals Post Partum Programme which is a maternity-centred approach to Family Welfare Programme has been in operation in various medical institutions in the country since 1969-70. As on March 31, 1977, the programme covered 449 institutions of which 181 are of A-type (hospitals handling 3,000 or more obstetric and abortion cases annually or teaching institutions), 74 B-type institutions (hospitals handling less than 3,000 but more than 1,500 obstetric and abortion cases annually) and 194 C-type institutions handling 1,500 or less obstetric and abortion cases annually, including 102 medical colleges and two post-graduate institutions which have been covered under the post partum programme.

NORWAY INDIA USA

Date : Dec 01, 1977

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POLAND

Trade Discussions in New Delhi

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 9, 1977 on the Indo-Polish trade which is to be in free convertible currency from 1981:

India and Poland have agreed that with effect from January 1, 1981 all new trade and payments transactions between the two countries will be concluded and settled in freely convertible currency. This follows discussions held here between the visiting Polish trade delegation and the Indian delegation from December 5 to 8, 1977 on the future trade and payments arrangements between the two countries. The Polish delegation to the talks was led by Mr. E. Wisniewski, Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and Shipping. The Indian delegation was led by Dr. P. C. Alexander, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce.

The two delegations agreed upon the framework of the new Trade and Payments Agreement that will come into force from January 1, 1978. The current Agreement which was signed in December 1974, valid for 3 years from January 1975, comes to a close on December 31, 1977. The main feature of the new Agreement which is to be in force for a period of 3 years effective from January 1, 1978 is that payments in respect of all commercial and non-commercial transactions between the two countries

shall continue to be effected in non-convertible Indian rupees. The new Agreement will be negotiated and finalised within a period of two months. In the meantime, both Governments have agreed to take necessary advance action to facilitate the flow of trade from January 1, 1978 in accordance with the arrangements envisaged in the discussions.

Export and import of goods between the two countries during the calendar year 1978 are proposed to be carried out in accordance with the commodity lists which are being worked out separately. The detailed lists will also be negotiated and finalised along with the Trade & Payments Agreement within the next two months.

The trade between India and Poland has risen steadily over the Past few years. From a figure of Rs. 310 million in 1963 the mutual trade rose to Rs. 850 million in 1973, Rs. 1330 million in 1974, Rs. 1920 million in 1975. In 1976, however, the trade turnover between the two countries came down to Rs. 1360 million, primarily because of shortfall in imports.

TALKS WITH MOHAN DHARIA

The visiting Polish trade delegation called on the Union Minister for Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation, Shri Mohan Dharia, on December 7, 1977 to discuss ways and means for increasing and diversifying Indo-Polish trade.

Shri Dharia was apprised of the discussions in the official level Working Groups. The Minister suggested several measures regarding further economic collaboration between India and Poland and increasing trade turnover. The proposed change in the trade pattern and the special trade arrangements in the coming years also figured in the discussions.

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ROMANIA

Trade Protocol Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 3, 1977 on the trade protocol for 1978 between India and Romania:

India and Romania signed in New Delhi on December 2, 1977 a trade protocol for the year 1978, which envisages a trade turnover of Rs. 1454 million both ways, indicating an increase of about 10 per cent over the trade plan targets for 1977.

The Indian delegation to the talks was led by Shri Suresh Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce. The Romanian delegation was headed by Mr. S. Voinov, Director General, Romanian Ministry of Foreign Trade.

India's trade with Romania has registered a consistent growth over the last few years. The annual trade turnover between the two countries has increased from Rs. 258 million in 1971 to Rs. 818 million in 1976. Romania is an important supplier of fertilizers to India and has also played a significant role in supplying oil drilling equipment and cargo vessels to India and in the development of our oil refineries. Next to Japan, Romania is the major importer of Indian iron ore. India's other exports to Romania comprise of a product-mix of both traditional items like cotton textiles, jute goods, machine tools, electronic components, oil cakes, coffee and pepper.

During talks, both sides emphasised the importance of expanding and diversifying the trade pattern in order to ensure sustained growth of bilateral trade in the coming

years. It was in keeping with this spirit that Romania agreed to supply commodities like caprolactum, newsprint and PVC resins as additional items in our import list for 1978. They also agreed to import printing machinery from India in 1978 in addition to the traditional and non-traditional items which are already being exchanged between the two countries.

OMAN ROMANIA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC JAPAN USA

Date : Dec 01, 1977

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UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Trade Protocol For 1978

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 26, 1977 oil the Indo-USSR trade protocol for 1978:

The trade protocol between the USSR and India for 1978 envisages a total turnover of Rs. 10560 million as compared to the expected turnover of around Rs. 9,000 million in 1977. The protocol was finalised and initialled, here today, at the conclusion of the visit of the Soviet trade delegation here.

The present exports from India to the USSR include a number of non-traditional items like steel structurals, storage batteries, garage equipment, hand tools, medical and surgical instruments, aluminium power cables, dry core-cables, electronic instruments, etc. in addition to our traditional ex-

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ports like tea, coffee, spices, cashew kernels, etc. The important addition to the list is

the machinery and equipment manufactured at industrial enterprises built in India with the Soviet assistance valued at over Rs. 90 million. These are meant for projects set up with Soviet assistance in third countries.

On the import side are included important raw materials like crude oil to the extent of 1.5 million tons, kerosene and diesel oil, urea, muriate of potash, chemicals, DDT, sulphur and a number of non-ferrous metals like zinc, nickel, platinum, palladium and other products like cotton, asbestos, news print, in addition to machinery and equipment including components, raw materials, spare parts for the Soviet assisted projects in India.

The trade protocol was initialled by Mr. M. A. Kiselev, Chief of Division, Soviet Ministry of Foreign Trade, on behalf of USSR and by Shri Suresh Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce on behalf of India. The trade protocol will be signed at the level of Secretaries later in 1978.

The talks between the two trade delegations were held in a cordial atmosphere of friendship and cooperation. The leader of the Soviet delegation also called on Shri Mohan Dharia, Union Minister for Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation.

INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date : Dec 01, 1977

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UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Indo-USSR Protocol on Coal

The following is the text of a press

release issued in New Delhi on December 23, 1977 an the Indo-USSR protocol on coal:

An Indo-USSR protocol on Coal was signed in New Delhi on December 23, 1977 between Shri S. K. Bose, Joint Secretary, Department of Coal, and Mr. N. M. Sakharov, Chief of V\O ZARUBEZHUGOLJ, Ministry of Mining Industry of the USSR on behalf of the Soviet Union.

The Protocol reviewed the existing agreement on coal signed in October 1977 between the two countries, when the Prime Minister of India, Shri Morarji Desai visited the USSR.

The main features of the Protocol are to review the collaboration projects in the Singrauli, Ramgarh and Raniganj coal-fields.

The specialists also discussed the scope of new technology in underground and open-cast coal mining, and advanced technology on utilisation of coal.

USA INDIA

Date : Dec 01, 1977

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UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Soviet Delegation Holds Talks with Indian Scientists

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 3, 1977 on the talks between Indian Scientists and the visiting Soviet delegation:

A nine-member Soviet delegation led by Dr. L. N. Effremov, Vice-Chairman, State Committee on Science and Technology,

Moscow, on December 3, 1977 held talks with an Indian delegation led by Dr. A. Ramachandran, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, and other representatives of scientific and technological institutions in the country.

The meeting reviewed the progress made in various fields of science and technology under Indo-Soviet agreement for cooperation in applied science and technology. The areas covered included, alternate sources of energy, water management, building sciences, information sciences, railway control technology, meteorology, metallurgy and medical sciences and technology transfer.

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Dr. Effremov, Head of USSR delegation expressed his satisfaction at the increasing cooperation with India in the scientific field and he expressed the hope that these talks will further extend and give new impetus to the cooperation between the two countries in different fields of science and technology. The delegation also suggested a few areas for further cooperation and for strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two Countries.

INDIA RUSSIA USA

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WORLD BANK

India's Energy Programme Praised

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 23, 1977 on the meeting of the World Bank Vice-President with the Energy Minister:

The Vice-President of the South-Asia Division of the World Bank, Mr. Earnest Stern, has expressed great satisfaction at the high priority being accorded to power programmes and to the generation of power in this country. Mr. Stern complimented the country on the massive strides taken towards increasing power generation capacity and in the vast improvements made in the efficiency and operation of power generation units.

Mr. Stern said this when he called on the Union Energy Minister, Shri P. Ramachandran, here this afternoon.

The Energy Minister informed the World Bank Official that his Ministry's endeavours are now geared towards achieving self-sufficiency in power generation within the next seven years. He said adequate priority was also being given to the agricultural sector and to rural electrification programmes. Shri Ramachandran expressed his gratitude at the World Bank assistance being provided for financing power projects in this country and expressed the hope that this would be increased.

Also present on the occasion were Shri R. V. Subrahmanian, Secretary and Smt. Otima Bordia, Joint Secretary of the Department of Power.

Mr. Earnest Stern called on Shri H. M. Patel. During the discussion, which lasted for about half an hour, Mr. Stern said that India's record in checking inflation was perhaps the best in the world. He expressed the hope that full advantage will be taken of the present situation of relative price stability to achieve accelerated growth.

Shri Patel told Mr. Stern that Government laid great stress on building infrastructural facilities, especially in rural areas. He said that the present Government has accorded top priority to irrigation and energy programmes. Shri Patel said that India had that capacity for efficient implementation and maintenance of projects.

INDIA USA LATVIA

Date : Dec 01, 1977

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YEMEN

Agreements and Protocol Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 15, 1977 on the signing of agreements and protocol by India and Yemen:

Mr. Mohamed Salem Basendwa, Minister of Development and Chairman of the Central Planning Organization, Yemen Arab Republic, visited New Delhi from 11th to the 14th of December at the invitation of Shri George Fernandes, Minister of Industry. He led a 12-member delegation and official talks began on the 7th of December, headed by Air. Ali Abdul Rahman Al Bahr, Deputy Minister for Economy of the Yemen Arab Republic and Shri R. Bhandari, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Deputy Leader of the Indian delegation. India and the Yemen Arab Republic have had a long historic association through trade and other exchanges and have the friendliest of relations. However this was the first time that a high-powered delegation from the Yemen Arab Republic visited India.

During this visit two separate agreements were initialled on 13th December. The Technical and Economic Cooperation Agreement was initialled by Mr. Mohamed Salem Basendwa for the YAR and by Shri A. B. Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs for the Republic of India. The Trade Agreement was initialled by Mr. Mohamed Salem Basendwa and by Shri Mohan Dharia, Minister of Commerce.

The agreed protocol covering a wide range of cooperation including setting up of industries for the YAR, formation of a joint construction company and the deputation of technical experts to the YAR at the request of that Government, was signed by Mr. Mohamed Salem Basendwa, Minister of Development and Shri George Fernandes, Minister of Industry.

As a result it has been agreed to send technical teams to YAR to discuss the setting up of industries such as cast iron pipes and pipe fittings, wide range of glass products, ceramic industry, packaging industry, stationery products and for the manufacture of shoes.

MINERAL RESOURCES

India has also agreed to assist YAR in the development of her mineral resources and mineral-based industries. Members of the delegation also had satisfactory discussions with some private sector companies in India and joint ventures are likely to be set up-

For deputation of experts the YAR is interested in technical personnel in diverse fields such as medical, agriculture, engineering, education and advisers for their Central Planning Organisation. In view of the very friendly relations between the two countries India has agreed to provide these under its Technical Assistance Programme.

The YAR is undertaking an ambitious five year developmental plan envisaging four billion US \$. They do not have the basic infrastructure and are interested in involving India heavily in the development of their economy. The Government of India, keeping in line of their policy of helping other developing countries, particularly in the Arab world, have offered any form of assistance that the Yemen Arab Republic desires.

The trade agreement provides for extension of Most Favoured Nation Treatment to each other' and for promotion of trade between the two countries.

India's exports to YAR have been increasing steadily. As against exports valued at Rs. 26.5 million in 1973-74, the performance in 1975-76 was Rs. 161.8 million and further increased to Rs. 444.9 million in 1976-77. During April and May 1977, our exports to YAR touched Rs. 32.7 million.

The various items exported to YAR include iron and steel, sugar, tobacco, spices, engineering goods, jute goods, textiles, chemicals and plastic goods.

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India's imports from YAR have been negligible till 1976-77, during which year, urea valued at Rs. 12.6 million was imported.

INDIA ASSURES HELP IN CONSTRUCTION TO YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

The Union Minister for Works, Housing, Supply and Rehabilitation, Shri Sikander Bakht said that India would be prepared to extend all assistance to Yemen Arab Republic in construction activity in that country. This was conveyed by Shri Bakht when Shri Mohamed Salem Basendwa, called on him here on December 12, 1977.

The visiting Minister expressed keen desire to have India's active assistance in the construction of roads, buildings, residential units, commercial complexes etc. He expressed the desire to have joint ventures with Indian public sector and private sector undertakings to execute construction projects expeditiously in that country. Shri Basendwa was also keen to have both skilled and unskilled labour. Engineers and architects from India to help in the construction work. He further said that India and his country have close and friendly relations and his country would very much like the Indian presence in its developmental work.

Shri Sikander Bakht conveyed to the YAR Minister that India would be glad to send engineers and other construction experts to assist that country. Several Indian public sector undertakings including NBCC and EPI were already engaged in a variety of construction activity in a number of West Asian-

countries, he added.

YEMEN INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date : Dec 01, 1977

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YUGOSLAVIA

Indo-Yugoslav Joint Committee Meeting

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 13, 1977 when the Yugoslav Minister called on Shri Mohan Dharia:

The next meeting of the Indo-Yugoslav Joint Committee on Economic Cooperation will be held at Belgrade during the first quarter of 1978. This was decided in New Delhi on December 13, 1977 when the Yugoslav Minister of Industry, Mr. Dusan Ilijevic called on Shri Mohan Dharia, Union Minister of Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation. The two Ministers discussed the prospects of developing trade between India and Yugoslavia, especially the scope of joint venture in third countries.

D. ILIJEVIC CALLS ON UNION ENERGY MINISTER

India's main exports to Yugoslavia include tea, coffee, de-oiled cakes, railway wagons, jute manufactures and automobile parts. Our imports from Yugoslavia include ships, tractors, fertilizers, different types of machineries and chemicals.

Mr. D. Ilijevic also called on the Minister for Energy, Shri P. Ramachandran, here today. The., exchanged information on the existing pattern of energy generation and distribution in the two countries.

The Energy Minister said that India was going in for a large programme of setting up new power generating units in the next seven years to meet the rising demand for energy. The rating of thermal generating units now being commissioned had reached 200 MW and this would go up to 500 MW in the near future. He added that most of the power equipment required by the country was being manufactured by the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited.

Mr. D. Ilijevic spoke about the existing economic cooperation between the two countries and also mentioned that his country had been supplying transmission equipment for rural electrification. He said that Yugoslavia could offer equipment for transmission and distribution of power and also small size generating units.

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