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Date: Jan 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

BANGLADESH

Meeting of Joint Rivers Commission in Dacca

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on January 22, 1978 on the inauguration of the 14th meeting of Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission in Dacca on January 22, 1978 by Shri S. S. Barnala, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation:

I declare open the 14th meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission. It is a matter of great satisfaction that the JRC is being activated after remaining in suspended animation for more than two and a half years since it met last in June 1975. When the JRC was established in 1972 it was regarded as an important land mark in the path of cooperation between India and Bangladesh for the optimum development of the water resources shared commonly by them. During the short period when it was active, JRC could claim many achievements to its credit. Apart from collecting and exchanging extremely useful hydrological and flood forecasting data, the two Governments apprised each other of the projects that they had in view for being taken up on the common rivers. In matters such as sharing the water resources of common rivers it is extremely important to cooperate in planning and development of the waters so that maximum benefits accrue to both the countries. Needless to say the JRC had developed into a useful and if I may say so an indispensable forum for achieving cooperation, coordination and harmony in the development of water resources of our common rivers. It should therefore be our effort in this meeting to take steps to restore the full range of the activities of the Joint Rivers Commission.

IMPORTANT MILESTONE

The JRC is going to resume its activities at a time when the climate of cooperation between the two countries is most propitious. Following the recent meetings and correspondence between our two leaders much of the cobweb of mistrust and misunderstanding between the countries has been cleared and the relations between them have started looking up once again. The recent visit of

His Excellency President Ziaur Rahman to India was an important milestone in the process of restoring trust and confidence and a significant contribution to the strengthening of our relations. It is incumbent on JRC to seize this opportunity and avail itself of the improved climate of cooperation and launch upon new phase of fruitful activities in the interest of the peoples of our two countries. The most important task of the JRC in this and its forthcoming meetings is going to be to carry out the mandate given to it in article 8 of the Farakka Agreement according to which it has been entrusted with carrying out a study of the best means of augmenting the flow of the Ganga and called upon to complete the study and submit its recommendations within a period of three years. Considering the complexity of the study we must start work on it without any further delay in order to be able to complete it within the time limit set out in the agreement. The most expeditious way would be (a) to set a time limit say a month or so for the submission of proposal by either side relating to scheme or schemes for augmenting the flow of the Ganga at Farakka. (b) JRC in the next meeting should examine these proposals and formulate alternative schemes to be jointly studied and investigated, (c) to study all the schemes at the same time and for this purpose set up as many joint teams of the two countries as the number of proposals, (d) to reach an agreement on the time schedule for the work of each of the study teams (e) to identify the tasks to be undertaken jointly, those to be undertaken by the individual countries in their own territories and agree on the method of coordinating these tasks. Speaking on behalf of India it is hardly necessary for me

to underline the importance of finding a speedy solution to the long term problem. We have been able to justify the sacrifice that we have made in reaching the agreement on the arrangement for sharing only on the promise that it would pave the way for finding a solution to the long term problem. Our progress in this Comission, therefore, is going to be watched by out, people at each step and their attitude on the interim arrangement for

sharing will very much depend upon this progress.

Earlier Shri Barnala called on Mr. B. Abbas, Member President's Council of Advisors in-change of Power Water Resources and Flood Control and Co-Chairman of the JRC. He also made a courtesy call on Mr. Azizil Huq, Member In-charge of agriculture and forests.

The Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, Shri Surjit Singh Barnala visited the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute at Jaydevpur, near Dacca on January 22, 1978. Shri Barnala was accompanied by Mr. B. M. Abbas, Member, President's Council of Advisors, in-charge of Power, Water Resources and Flood Control and members of the Indian delegation. Mr. Azizulhaq, Member President's Council of Advisors, in charge of Agriculture. explained the working of the Institute to Shri Barnala. Shri Barnala showed keen interest in the working of the Institute and appreciated the work done by it in the field of developing new varieties of high yielding and pest resistent paddy.

In the morning, Shri Barnala, visited a Gurdwara near Dacca University and participated in the Sunday Prayer Service. He presented a Rumala to the Gurdwara. The Gurdwara is said to date back to the time of Guru Nanak, who stayed there for some time.

BANGLADESH INDIA USA PERU CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC LATVIA

Date: Jan 01, 1978

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BANGLADESH

Conclusion of Meeting

The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi on January 25, 1978 on the conclusion of the Indo-Bangladesh joint rivers commission meeting:

India and Bangladesh have been asked to furnish by mid-March their proposals for augmentation of dry season flow of the Ganga. This was agreed in the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission meeting which concluded in Dacca on January 24. These will be considered in the next meeting of the Commission being held in Delhi in early April with a view to formulate proposals for joint study and investigation.

These proposals will be studied jointly with equal priority and on agreed time schedule by the study teams to be appointed by the Commission. The Commission will identify the task to be undertaken jointly and separately by the individual countries in their respective territories. It will also decide the method of coordinating these talks.

Progress of earlier studies and the problems arising from scheme on common rivers were also Considered. It was agreed to expedite action through joint investigation by experts of the two countries. Eleven such schemes have been identified for joint investigation of the problems.

In regard to the flood problem of Sylhet, Cachar and adjoining areas, the Commission decided that the concerned Superintending Engineers of the two countries should jointly examine the scope of the Indian scheme of storage dam on Barak river at Tipaimukh. Its potential flood control and other benefits to Bangladesh should be studied expeditiously.

The meeting also adopted annual report of the Commission for 1974-75.

The Indian delegation led by Shri Surjit Singh Barnala, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation returned to New Delhi on January 24.

The other members of the delegation were Shri C. C. Patel, Secretary (Irrigation)

Shri M. Dubey, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs; Shri K. V. Rama Rao, Member, Joint Rivers Commission; Shri R. Rangachari, Joint Commissioner, Department of Irrigation, Shri Rajinder Singh, Special Assistant to Minister, Shri M. M. Lall, Director (Public Relations); Shri Deb

2 Mukharji, First Secretary, Indian High Commission, Dacca.

ORIGIN OF COMMISSION

Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission was set up on March 19, 1972, in terms of joint declaration by Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh pursuant to the Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Peace betwen the two countries. It was entrusted responsibility of maintaining liaison between India and Bangladesh to ensure the most effective efforts in maximising the benefits from the common rivers systems to both countries.

Among the tasks assigned to the Commission is to formulate and recommend implementation of joint projects and to study flood control and irrigation projects, so that water resources of the region can be utilised on an equitable basis for the mutual benefits of the two countries.

The Commission was constituted by each Government, appointing a Chairman and three members, two of whom were to be engineers. The Chairmanship of the Commission is held annually in turn by Bangladesh and India and the meeting also lake place alternately in India and Bangladesh.

Since its inception in November 1972, thirteen meetings of the Commission have been held. The Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh, who reviewed the work of the Commission on May 16, 1974, observed that the Commission had done useful preparatory work and was in a position to identify specific schemes for short and long-term developments. The two Prime Ministers also agreed that the vast water resources of Bangladesh and adjoining regions in India should be har-

nessed for the common benefits of the two Countries.

SHARING OF GANGA WATERS

Following the November 5, 1977, signing of the Indo-Bangladesh Agreement on the sharing of the Ganga waters at Farakka and augmenting its flows, the Joint Rivers Commission, has been re-activated. It has been asked to carry out investigations and study all schemes relating to the augmentation of dry season flows of the Ganga with a view to finding a economical and feasible solution.

During the recent visit of President of Bangladesh to India in December last, it was decided to up-grade Chairmanship of the Commission to the Ministerial level.

BANGLADESH USA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM LATVIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Jan 01, 1978

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

India mid Czechoslovakia Discuss Judicial Systems

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on January 23, 1978 on the visit of a three-member Czechoslovak delegation:

A three-member delegation headed by Dr. Jan Nemec, Minister for Justice of the Czech Socialist Republic, which is now on a Visit to India from Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, called on the Minister for Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Shri Shanti Bhushan today. The delegation is visiting India on an invitation extended by the Minister for Law.

The Czech delegation was eager to have details about the working of the Indian Constitution and the Judiciary in this country as also the organisation of the Ministry of Law Justice and Company Affairs. After explaining the composition of his Ministry, Shri Shanti Bhushan stated that the Constitution of India enshrined the principle of the Rule of Law and the equality of all, citizens as well as aliens, before the law. It was pionted out that if a law violated the fundamental rights even though it has been passed by the Parliament, it was open to the

3 Supreme Court to declare the law to be unconstitutional and beyond the legislative capacity of Parliament.

JUDICIAL ORGANISATION

The judicial organisation in this country from the Supreme Court down to the Magistrates' Courts was explained. It was emphasised that the Constitution of India provided for a system of 'checks and balances' in order to ensure the liberty of the citizen.

A reference was also made to the role of the Attorney-General in the Centre and also of the Advocates-General in the various States.

Dr. Jan Nemec and his delegation explained the system of judicial administration in force in their country. Reference was made to the fact that lay Judges called People's Judges were also associated with professional Judges in deciding cases. The organisation of the legal profession in corporations or companies was also a feature of the Czech judicial system. It was also pointed out that there was no Ministry for Justice as such in the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia and there were such Ministries only in the two constituent Republics.

The Czech delegation consisting of Dr. Jan Nemec, Czech Minister of Justice, Dr. Gaspar Kubak, Slovak Deputy Minister of Justice and Dr. Frantisek Havelka, Chief of the International Department of the Czech

Ministry of Justice, were on a eight-day official visit of India.

The three-member Czech delegation which arrived in New Delhi on January 22, was given a warm welcome at the airport. Union Minister for Law, Justice and Company Affairs Shri Shanti Bhushan welcomed the delegation. Others present at the airport were the Minister of State for Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Shri Narsingh, Shri K. K. Sundaram, Secretary, Legislative Department, Shri P. B. Venkatasubramanian, Secretary, Legal Affairs, Shri T. C. A. Srinivasavardan, Secretary, Justice, Shri P. Krishnamurthi, Secretary, Company Affairs and Senior Officials of the Government.

NORWAY SLOVAKIA INDIA USA

Date: Jan 01, 1978

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DENMARK

Aid for Prevention of Visual Impairment

The following is the text of a press release Issued in New Delhi on January 15, 1978 on the signing of an Indo-Danish agreement:

India and Denmark have signed an agreement, in New Delhi on January 15 regarding the assistance to be given by Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) to India for the national programme for "Prevention of Visual Impairment and Control of Blindness". Shri Raj Narain. Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, signed the agreement on behalf of the Government of India and Mrs. Lise Ostergaard, Minister without Portfolio in the Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. signed it on behalf of the Government of Denmark.

The agreement provides assistance to the tune of Rs. 8.5 crores for the Mobile Units and for equipment for the Primary Health Centres, taluka and district hospitals. A part of the recurring cost of Mobile Units will also be covered by the Danish Government. The total programme will cost about Rs. 20 crores upto 1983-84, and the balance will be incurred by the Government of India.

VALUABLE ASSISTANCE

Conveying, his thanks to the Danish Government, Shri Raj Narain said, "We have always valued the very sincere and valuable

4 assistance rendered to the national programmes for health and family welfare in this country by the Government of Denmark starting with projects such as the Indo-Danish Oral Cancer Control Project at Trivandrum. Many other projects have been aided by your Government such as the establishment of Speech and Hearing Units at four places, upgrading of the Speech and Hearing Institute in Mysore with additional equipment, supply of equipment for the Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow, and the large assistance provided for the construction of the building complex of the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare at Delhi."

DENMARK INDIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date: Jan 01, 1978

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EGYPT

Indo-Egypt Protocol on Energy Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on January 25, 1978 on industrial cooperation with Egypt:

India is to extend scientific technical and industrial cooperation in the fields of rural electrification, supply of equipment required for rural electrification programmes and assistance in the development of indigenous manufacturing capabilities of such equipment in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

This was decided in a protocol signed in Delhi on January 25, 1978 between the Minister for Energy, Shri P. Ramachandran, on behalf of the Government of India and His Excellency Engineer Ahmed Sultan, on behalf of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Under the agreement collaboration will he extended for the supply of equipment like transformers, conductors, cables, pumps, electric motors, capacitors, meters, transmission towers etc. It was agreed to offer facilities in India for training of engineers and operational managers for the power sector.

DEPUTATION OF EXPERTS

With regard to rural electrification, the Arab Republic of Egypt is to identify and earmark a site for rural electrification programme in this country to be developed Jointly by Indo-Egyptian effort. India will assist Egypt in the progressive development of indigenous manufacture by local industry of equipment required for rural electrification

India under the Technical Assistance programme has agreed to assist Egypt by deputing experts in the field of power, engineering, and rural electrification. Arab engineers will also receive training in this country in the fields of hydro, thermal and power systems, engineering. plant level training, project formulation, design, construction and management and contract management.

It has also been agreed that facilities available at the Central Power Research Institute at Bangalore would be utilised in programmes for mutual benefit. The CPRI conducts work in developing facilities, testing and certifying important power equipment before they are used commercially and also undertakes active research into certain specific field problems.

SOLAR ENERGY

Exchange of information on the results of research in the field of solar energy has been agreed. It was further agreed that mutual collaboration in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, would be strengthened in extension of an agreement already signed between the two countries in 1962.

A Working Group to secure a timely and smooth implementation of the programme has been agreed The Group will hold periodical meetings in Cairo and New Delhi, at

least once every year, to review the progress of the agreements reached in the protocol.

The five-member Egyptian delegation led by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Energy and Electricity, arrived in New Delhi on January 16, 1978. They were received at the airport by the Union Energy minister, Shri P. Ramachandran and senior officials of the Ministry of Energy.

EGYPT INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date: Jan 01, 1978

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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Minister for Economic Cooperation Meets H.M. Patel

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on January 7, 1978 on the FRG Economic Cooperation Minister meeting Shri H.M. Patel:

Her Excellency, Mrs. Marie Schlsi, Minister for Economic Cooperation, Federal Republic of Germany called on the Finance Minister, Shri H. M. Patel on January 7. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Union Minister of External Affairs and Shri George Fernandes, Union Minister of Industry were also present.

General matters of mutual interest, specially economic cooperation between the two countries, were discussed.

Mrs. Schlsi spent a day in New Delhi on her way to Bangladesh, Burma and Thailand.

GERMANY INDIA USA BANGLADESH BURMA

Date: Jan 01, 1978

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FRANCE

Agreement for Cold Rolled Stainless Steel Production at Salem

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on January 27, 1978 on the signing of the agreement for cold rolled stainless steel production at Salem:

The Salem Steel Limited, a public sector steel plant, entered into a technical collaboration agreement with M's Peugeot Loire of France. The agreement was signed at Salem on January 26, by Shri V. Subramaniam, Managing Director of the Salem Steel limited, and Mr. J. P. Racamier of Peugeot Loire. France. Shri R. P. Billimoria, Chairman of the Steel Authority of

India, Was present at the signing ceremony.

The plant at Salem is being set up for the production of stainless steel and other special steels. The project is being executed in two stages. A sophisticated cold rolling complex for the production of 032,000 tonnes stainless steel sheets and strips is to be set up in the first stage which involves a capital outlay of Rs. 120 crores. The second stage of the project covers the setting up of facilities for making iron and steel and for hot and cold rolling of stainless, electrical and

6 other special steels. The second phase of the project will cost an estimated Rs. 560 crores.

Several reputed stainless steel manufacturers from all over the world had responded to the global tender floated by Salem Steel limited for supply of technical know-how. A team of experts had visited a number of stainless steel plants in various countries (luring June-August 1977 for a comparative Study of stainless steel plants in Italy, Spain, France, USA, Japan and South Korea. The French tender was found to be most competitive and technologically suitable.

Under this agreement, Peugeot Loire, apart from providing the process know-how, will also advise Salem Steel on design and engineering, including the layout and the choice of equipment suppliers. Salem engineers and technicians will be trained in France for the operation of the Plant and the French firm will also make available their experts at Salem for rendering assistance in the erection and operation of the plant. They will also provide assistance in setting up a customer service, product application and development organisation. Peugeot Loire have very wide experience in the production and marketing of cheaper ferritic (nonnickel) stainless steel the use of which Salem Steel is committed to promote in order to save foreign exchange.

VALIDITY OF AGREEMENT

This agreement will be valid for a period of 10 years from January 26, 1978, or for a period of 5 years after the commissioning, whichever is later.

Peugeot Loire is a newly formed company in France in which the cold rolling facilities existing at the Pont-de-Roide plant of Aciers at Outillage Peugeot (AOP) and the Ondaine plant of Creusot Loire (CL) have been merged. The main supplier of hot rolled stainless steel coils to both the companies is Compagnie Industrielle Chiers-Chatillon (CICC) who also have equity participation in Peugeot Loire along with AMP and CL. Peugeot is well known in the European automobile industry and CL in the field of special and alloy steels production. CL is not new to India as a technical collaborator. They have their on-going technical collaboration in various industrial units like Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd., Hyderabad; Bihar Alloy Steels Ltd., Ranchi; BHEL, Hardwar, etc. They have exported their know-how and expertise to a number of other countries like Spain, Portugal, Rumania, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Iran, USSR, USA, etc.

FRANCE INDIA RUSSIA USA ITALY SPAIN JAPAN KOREA HUNGARY PORTUGAL IRAN YUGOSLAVIA

Date: Jan 01, 1978

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GHANA

Air Agreement Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on January 25, 1978 on the signing of the India-Ghana air agreement:

An agreement between the Government of India and the Government of the Republic

of Ghana relating to operation of air services between the two countries was signed in New Delhi on January 25, 1978.

The agreement provides for the operation of two services, Per week each by the designated airlines of India and Ghana on the specified routes. At present, Air India is operating a weekly service to Accra which is an extension of one of its direct services to Nairobi. The designated airline of Ghana has not yet commenced operations to India.

Shri R. P. Naik, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation, signed the agreement on behalf of India and Mr. Paul Boakye Duah, High Commissioner for Ghana in India signed on behalf of his Government.

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GHANA INDIA KENYA

Date: Jan 01, 1978

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GUATEMALA

"Cardamom Community"

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on January 20, 1978 on the Guatemala move for 'Cardamom Community':

Guatemala, the second largest exporter of cardamom after India, has welcomed the move for the formation of a Cardamom Community'.

Conveying this to the Indian Ambassador, Shri A.N. Mehta, the Foreign Minister of Guatemala stated that a cardamom delegation from that country would visit India shortly for talks on joint research, promotion and marketing of this commodity.

Shri A.N. Mehta, India's Ambassador to Mexico, who is concurrently accredited to Guatemala, was on a 10-day visit to Guatemala, he called on the President, the Vice-President and the Foreign Minister and discussed with them measures for expanding trade between the two countries.

India has recently appointed an Honorary Consul in Guatemala. He is Mr. Ulrich W. Rasch, an eminent Guatemalan citizen.

GUATEMALA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA MEXICO USA

Date: Jan 01, 1978

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INDIA AND HOME AFFAIRS

President's Republic Day Message to the Nation

Following is the text of the President's message to the nation on the eve of the 29th Republic Day:

Tomorrow we will celebrate the 29th Republic Day. On this joyous occasion, it is my pleasure and privilege to greet all of you, my fellow-citizens at home and abroad, and convey to you my good wishes.

A very eventful year has just passed. The common man has reaffirmed his belief in democratic values and restored our distinction as the largest living democracy in the world.

INSPIRING EXAMPLE

On this occasion, each one of us has to ask ourselves in all humility whether we have followed the inspiring example set by the leaders of this ancient land. Have we comprehanded the new national ethos and adequately responded to it? In this context it is disappointing that the professional classes as well as business and industry have not shown sufficient evidence of their being prepared to accept their share of national responsibility.

The future is unfolding itself. What are our immediate preoccupations and aspirations for the future? The coming elections to the State Assemblies afford an occasion for all political parties to prove their dedication to democracy and cleanliness in public life. What is important is not the result but how it is achieved. The campaign must be conducted with dignity, only on the basis of clear-cut programmes and policies.

Once again our voters will have the option of choosing not their masters, but their servants. We must, as in the past, prove ourselves a mature people, pledged to the processes of democracy and the democratic way of life. Our people should be enabled to exercise their franchise without let or hindrance. My Government will guarantee this, the basic birth-right of every eligible voter. Let the free will of the people prevail, and all will be well, whatever the result. This is my firm belief.

SELF-CONFIDENCE AND COURAGE

Many problems loom large on the horizon. We must face them with courage and

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self-confidence. Some frustrated and des perate elements in our society today are determined to scuttle the principles of our democratic way of life and destroy the very fabric of our secular society. While every one of us is entitled to freedom of expression in appropriate forums, no one should be permitted to drag each and every issue to the streets, excite dormant passions, advocate disrespect for law and order and incite violence. Such a policy of unwarranted confrontation backed by provocative action on the slightest pretext is a challenge we as citizens of a free country need to face with determination. Let not a few misguided and

disgruntled sectors of society imagine that they can hold the rest of us, law abiding citizens, to ransom. Swift and stern action will he taken against any one acting in a manner prejudicial to the national interest. Our founding fathers, among whom were the great Mahatma, the far-sighted Panditji and the indomitable Sardar, won us political freedom, and laid solid foundations for our economic advancement. Are we to allow all this to be nullified by the unconscionable behaviour of an irresponsible few? Freedom may yet be in peril. Let us defend it with all the might at our disposal.

The post-emergency climate has been congenial for reconciling fundamental freedoms and open society with egalitarianism and social justice. This is the first Republic Day with which my ten-month-old government is associated. Let us not judge them hastily. Let us rather take note of what has been achieved. It has restored to public life the essential attributes of a mature democracy. On the economic front, my government have sought to concertise the Gandhian concept of employment oriented rural development and to bridge socioeconomic disparity between the urban and the rural areas,

GOOD CONSCIENCE

For the first time since Independence, our political life is not dominated by one monolithic political party. Today men of good conscience, but with varying shades of political opinion, are working together for the good of the nation. This is in itself a great achievement. Let us not isolate and exaggerate honest differences of opinion and, unwittingly perhaps, undermine the principles of collective responsibility on which good government is based. For once in our history, We stand united as a nation. India is one country and Indians are one people. Let no one underestimate our strength or take us for granted.

Our continued progress on the agricultural front and our determination to reach the benefits of planned development to the rural areas, and to the economically weaker sections of society, will better the quality of life of millions of our countrymen. This requires resolute political will and determined administrative action. To our sound and broad-based scientific and technological achievements, which have been acknowledged all the world over, we have handsomely coupled research and development to take care of the future. Today we are recognised as one of the ten most industrially advanced nations in the world.

India's very significant man power contribution to the United Nations pool of technical and administrative talent and experience is matched only by our bilateral technical assistance programmes to our friends in Africa, South East and West Asia. While we may take justifiable pride in these achievements, we must guard against complacency in thought and action. On the other hand, we must forge ahead with hard dedicated work and the determination to succeed not only as individuals but as a nation.

TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE

Our administration relieved of its recent traumatic experience is fortunate to have firm dynamic political leadership. The younger generation who join the various services which compose the broad spectrum of the administration, are idealistic, motivated and have the capacity for hard work. Let us forge out of these qualities a result oriented instrument to implement our plans for the future and to build the India of our dreams. Those in the administration who act without fear or favour in the national interest will have nothing to fear.

Let us not forget that in this country where the majority live below the poverty line, even the lowest paid industrial worker either in the public or private sector or government servant is a privileged citizen. Is it not morally wrong to confer on these relatively privileged classes additional benefits merely because they are organised and vociferous? Can we ignore the larger majority because they are unorganised and inarticulate?

The inconvenience resulting from shortages and price increase must, in all fairness, be shared by all. If this is to be done, there is no escape from a start being made in limiting profits, eliminating all forms of conspicuous consumption and dealing sternly with those who commit economic and social crimes. We have to develop a new administrative culture and imbue the administration with discipline and dedication and make it responsive to the people's problems and aspirations. Only then will the benefits of planned development percolate to the grassroots of our society.

COHESIVE UNITY

On an occasion like this, one is struck by the cohesive unity of our country in spite of several apparent diversities. Not even during the times of Ashoka nor Akbar, was India politically one. The Britishers with their might and skill moulded us into one large political entity. Europe consists of several nations. Can attempts now to bring them together and make one Europe succeed Our country which is a sub-continent should not be allowed to break up on any issue much less on inconsequential and sentimental issues. History has cast upon us the onerous responsibility of maintaining and strengthening the unity and vitality of our great nation. I am convinced that we can achieve this through mutual good will and understanding. Let us, therefore, resolve that no considerations, no issues, and no forces will be allowed to impair our basic unity and richness of culture and heritage.

CONCEPT OF FEDERALISM

We are pledged to the concept of federalism. During the recent Conference of Governors, I was happy to see that there was great measure of harmony between the Central Government and the State Governments run by different political parties. Let us not forget that sonic of our leaders in the States are men of distinction with a long record of service to the country. If our political parties realise that despite their differences, they can work together for the common good of the people, and evolve agree-

ment on major issues, problems of socioeconomic development within a democratic frame-work would become less difficult. All our political parties are committed to the speedy elimination of poverty, social injustice and exploitation. Harijans, the minorities and the economically vulnerable sections of society must be encouraged to increasingly participate in the mainstream of national life.

Since the launching of our first Five Year Plan, our agricultural production, industrial production and exports have increased by about 200%, 400% and 800% respectively. This is no doubt an impressive achievement. But the gains of development are nullified by the explosive growth of population. This vital national problem brooks no delay. It is the duty of all political parties to concertedly endeavour to prevent this national catastrophe.

On this occasion, I cannot but express the nation's gratitude to Shri Jayaprakash Narayan who is one of the few living symbols of the Gandhian era. Let us all pray for his good health and long life to guide us in the years to come.

Today we salute our defence services who stand guard on our borders and guarantee our territorial integrity. Their courage and valour in the face of several hardships deserve our admiration and gratitude.

Friends, I have an abiding faith in the great future that awaits India. On this historic day, let us all rededicate ourselves to the formidable tasks which face the country and enter confidently into an era of hope, freedom and achievement.

"JAI HIND"

INDIA USA PERU CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Jan 01, 1978

Volume No

INDIA AND HOME AFFAIRS

Changing International Order and India's Role in it

The following is the text of the lecture delivered by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs, under the auspices of Osmania University and the Administrative Staff College of India in Hyderabad on January 28, 1978:

I would like to begin with a word of clarification regarding the title of the subject

10 we have assembled to discuss here to-day.

There is unfortunately no such thing as an international order today. The goal of building a world family, dedicated to the pursuit of the noble and good, has eluded the fervent efforts of patriots, internationalists and philosophers.

This is not to suggest that the world is frozen into a state of immobility. Far from it. Change is the inevitable law of nature which transcends all dogmas, ideologies and perceptions. In many ways, the world of today is very different and almost unrecognisable from what we had got used to less than a generation ago.

Before we proceed to define these changes, I must confess in all humility that it might just be a little presumptuous to speak of India's role in this constantly changing international situation. What we can more realistically talk about is perhaps the interaction between the shifting trends and perceptions around us and the socioeconomic processes going on imperceptibly in our own country.

The primary task of our foreign policy is to take into account the fact of this constant interaction and to respond to the challenges as well as the opportunities thrown up by it. The manner of response, which is itself determined by the basic principles guiding our foreign policy and by our unique national experience, must determine in turn the extent to which we are able to promote our national purpose and interest and at the same time make a modest contribution to the promotion of peace and understanding in the world.

The end of the Second World War in which the major powers had fought unitedly to defeat fascism, ushered in the hopes of an era of lasting peace, free of tension and bitterness and pregnant with the promise of harmony and cooperation. These hopes were soon to be dashed by the icy winds of the cold war which often brought the world to the very brink of war.

CONFLICT OF IDEOLOGIES

The conflict of ideologies, which brought about this ominous transformation in the world scene, soon turned into postures of hostile confrontation. The whole of the fifties were tormented by this phenomenon. Powerful military blocs were set up and alliances forged in search of security and ironically in the name of peace. On the one hand, there was the dangerous, though ineffective, doctrine of containment of communism. On the other, was the insipid and ridiculous slogan of "we will bury Capitalism"!

Between these two artificially extreme positions, the world seemed to be coming apart. Whole multitudes of peoples, bulk of them living in economically impoverished societies, were threatened with involvement in this pointless confrontation.

It was at this stage that the voice of non-aligned India assumed meaning and significance. Non-alignment, to most people, provided the answer to the dilemma between, as it were, the thesis and the anti-thesis, between containment of communism and the burial of capitalism.

Non-alignment appeared as a moral force before the world. It demonstrated that there was no such thing as a division of the

world into black and white, that there were some self-evident principles based on truth and justice governing international affairs.

It provided the newly emerging nations with an opportunity to project their sover-eignty on to the international sphere by asserting independence of judgement unfettered by the pull of ideology.

NATIONAL EXPERIENCE

By rejecting the bloc approach, it established the personality of the newly independent nations, which had been, without exception, under colonial domination and exploitation. Implicit in non-alignment, therefore, was their own national experience, namely, uncompromising opposition to exploitation, to all forms of domination and to discrimination on the ground of race or colour.

Though we were sarcastically ridiculed as "day-dreamers", and denounced as "immoral", the world could not dismiss this idea with its strong moral persuasions and inherent altruism

Another significant attribute of nonalignment, which had a profound effect on the psychology of world security and which came directly from our independence strug-

gle, is fearlessness. We were convinced that security did not come from allying yourself to a military bloc against real or imagined enemies. It came from inner strength, economic, political and social.

To resume, from this point, our story of change, the world of the sixties came slowly to recognise the wisdom of this approach. Though we ourselves had to pass through many vicissitudes, many conflicts, they only served to underline the basic correctness of non-alignment. The concept not only survived, but gathered in its embrace ever more adherents and became stronger. The decade of the sixties, which started with furious rivalry between the protagonists

of the thesis and the anti-thesis, slowly gave way to competition for influence, political as well as economic. This was already a more relaxed world to live in, though to the vast majority of the developing countries there was little comfort to be had from the situation.

The present decade has witnessed a radical transformation in the understanding of the realities of global strategy and balance of power.

For the first time in a generation the super powers came formally to recognise the reality of their mutual vulnerability, a fact that had been obvious to the rest of the world for a long time. For the first time they realised that the game of war, direct or by proxy, was evil because it could wipe out their own undoubtedly glorious achievements in science, culture and economy.

MUTUAL ACCOMMODATION

The first product of this enlightenment was detente. It was born not so much at the summit meetings that characterised the beginnings of the seventies, but in the hearts of people of goodwill on both sides of the ideological divide. They had recognised the need to supplant fear with confidence, confrontation with cooperation, conflict with harmony. Though the ideal state of mutual confidence and trust would still take a long time to come, the relaxation of the atmosphere has already released powerful forces for cooperation, mutual accommodation and constructive coexistence between the two camps which were previously bitterly divided.

The process of detente is perpetually evolving. The memory of the half-mocking, half-serious cries of defeating this "ism" or that has already faded and been replaced by repeated declarations of sincere coexistence and cooperation. And now the United States has admitted that the entire strategy of its anti-communism of the late forties and the fifties may have been a misperception!

Whatever the explanation for this transformation - recognition of mutual vulner-

ability against the highly sophisticated technology of war, or sheer exhaustion with high tension politics - there is one inference that is irresistible. It represents the acceptance of the principles non-aligned India and other developing non-aligned countries have been pressing before the world community for the last three decades.

GENUINE CO-EXISTENCE

To us, and to the architect of independent India's foreign policy, Jawaharlal Nehru, co-existence was not a matter of tactics. Genuine co-existence, as opposed to tactical, was the natural determinant of the conflicting set of trends, forces and ideologies the world was faced with.

Survival, not in the barbarous sense of evolutionary theory, but of the proud creations and creativity of man, was at stake. If sanity were to prevail, ideological obstinacy had to give way to relaxed coexistence.

I shudder to think what would have been the fate of the world community and our own fate if, we had followed any other path, the path of alliance and military groupism. We have seen its traumatic effects in various parts of the globe and in our own neighbourhood. We should be immensely grateful that we chose the path we did, the path of peace, cooperative co-existence and non-alignment.

How does the world look today? Never before did we collectively have such sophisticated resources to do good, to alleviate the sufferings of the less fortunate masses.

Never before did we have the real possibility of bringing the collective will of the world community to bear upon the solution of the numerous problems that still stalk our civilisation.

Our task is not to let this promise fade into a chimera, as it has so often done in the course of human history.

The world remains divided into areas of prosperity and abject poverty. The economic imperatives of existence continue to drive whole nations and peoples into despair and desperation. The terms of trade of the developing countries have grown comparatively worse, generating dissipatory pressures on their economies and on their societies. Sharp fluctuations of prices and the progressively diminishing returns of a primary productsbased economy are threatening the basic fabric of stability. The constraints on resource, transfers from those who can afford to those who need them desperately are constantly pushing down living standards in the latter. Very often, the inequity of the international system is so grotesque that resource flows have been reversed, with the advanced nations getting richer through the inevitable impoverishment of the developing community.

When you add to this the heavy debt repayment liability, compounded by the crushing burden imposed by the continually rising pi-ices of oil as well as sophisticated capital equipment, you can well imagine the desperate situation in which the developing countries find themselves today.

There was a wide-spread belief that the response of a majority of the advanced nations to the situation was one of incomprehensible insensitivity. One appreciates that they have their own problems of readjustment to the fast changing world economic forces. But by and large, many have the feeling that the spirit of inter-dependence, so essential to the solution of the problem of the rising gap between expectation and performance, has not been fully grasped.

As you know, the International Conference on Economic Cooperation in Paris grappled with these problems. Though the Conference did not produce any concrete solutions, it was not altogether a failure. The exercise was useful as not only the problems were identified, but different variants of solutions to them were considered at great length.

The dialogue has now been remitted to

the United Nations. Unfortunately, there is not sufficient ground to be very hopeful about the UN succeeding in this undoubtedly very difficult task.

So far as India is concerned, we do not take a pessimistic or defeatist view. Though there is deep disappointment in our hearts, we would not give up the path of gentle persuasion to achieve what we regard as our just ends. Cooperation, not confrontation, is our guiding principle.

The developed industrial nations must realise that we are not out to take a chunk in the cake of their prosperity.

They ought to understand that even a small addition in our purchasing power would lead to greater off take of their own products and services.

ECONOMIC CAPACITY

They should realise that any augmentation in the economic capacity of the developing countries in the sharing of surpluses generated by the economies of the developed nations would add to their own prosperity.

Besides, it is not our aim to aspire for the living standards of the advanced industrial nations. A British socialist once despairingly enquired: how much resources would be needed to take India's prosperity to the level of that of Britain?

There is no reason really for despair. It is neither our policy nor our philosophy to aim for those dizzy heights of supermaterialism.

What, however, we the developing countries demand is the fair play of international commerce and economic exchange. We want a new international economic order, just and equitable, where the traditionally weak and the poor will have the opportunity to obtain a fair return for their competence. It should be an order where artificial barriers to shut off the goods and services of labour would no longer exist.

What we request is a solemn commitment by the international community to these objectives, to their realisation within a time framework that would pi-event despair and keep the wolf away from the door.

No longer will the developing countries be satisfied by pious declarations of intent. What we need is action.

Let us turn our attention to some other aspects.

The monstrosity of racism and apartheid still defies the world. it is a scar on the

13 conscience of the international community.

The system of apartheid is out to entrench itself deeper into Southern Africa. In reality, its efforts are the symptom of a nervous collapse and of the realisation that it is on its last legs. Its policies look more and more like a centipede out of step with itself - all tangled and confused and on the way to extinction.

We would no longer suffer a society where the colour of your skin determines to what extent you can be regarded as human. There is no future for a society where a son renounces his mother because the colour of her skin has changed.

India has the proud distinction of being the first country to have raised its voice against racist bigotry. At the end of the last century, Mahatma Gandhi initiated his non-violent crusade against racist discrimination in South Africa. The torch that he lit is still ablaze and millions in India and all the world are carrying it even forward to reduce and ultimately eliminate the circle of racial discrimination.

RHODESIA

India is actively advocating the trans fer of power to the chosen representatives of

the majority in Rhodesia. We would welcome it if the transfer can be brought about peacefully. But if armed struggle becomes necessary, India would fully Support and help the patriotic forces both morally and materially.

There is another area where the world has looked on with trepidation, helpless to reverse the continually worsening situation. The arms race has continued to rage with all its fury, despite detente and despite agreements on strategic arms limitations. Suffice it to say that between 1972, when the first agreement to limit the manufacture and deployment of strategic arms was concluded and 1977, the strategic weapon stockpile of the two superpowers has more than doubled.

There is at the same time no bar on the further sophistication of the technology of destruction. The same weapons have thus become more killing and more awesome.

A great deal has been said and written about the fantastic sums of money being spent on maintaining overkill capacities. A distinguished statesman, who visited our country in the early months of our government, told me: "Economists and experts may look around for models to deal with the ills of the economy. I can tell you that unless there is meaningful disarmament, no economic model is going to work."

DISARMAMENT

I fully share this view. I can also assure you that we are going to work for it with renewed vigour. As you know, the UN General Assembly is holding a special session devoted to disarmament in the coming summer. It would be our endeavour to evolve agreements on concrete programmes of action for disarmament, for the setting up of negotiating mechanisms under some kind of a time frame.

The special session on disarmament will also afford an opportunity to those nuclear weapons states who are not participating in the Geneva talks to gauge the intensity of world opinion on the subject and to co-operate

in a tangible manner towards a meaningful outcome of the proceedings.

In the field of nuclear disarmament India has already set an example by unilaterally renouncing the manufacture of nuclear weapons. It is our solemn policy to develop nuclear technology only and exclusively for peaceful purposes. It is, therefore, a little surprising that the issue should be sought to be confused by making appeals to India on this question.

It is perfectly understandable that an overwhelming section of public opinion in India considers that those who have nuclear weapons and continue to add to their stockpiles of nuclear wapons have no moral right to ask India to accept constraints on its peaceful nuclear energy development programmes.

The heart of the problem of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons is a complete stoppage of the production of nuclear weapons combined with the simultaneous cut-off in the production of fissionable materials for weapon purposes. All nuclear facilities would then become peaceful and the same system of verification could be applied to the flow of fissionable materials in all States without exception.

Thus, if the nuclear weapon powers agree to ban all nuclear tests, order a complete stoppage of the production of nuclear weapons and undertake to reduce and ultimately elimi-

nate their nuclear weapon stockpiles, then all nuclear establishments would automatically become civilian in nature. In such a situation the same system of safeguards can be applied to all States without discrimination, whether nuclear weapon states or non-nuclear weapon states. Unless this is achieved, it would be futile to expect India to accept full scope safeguards, which are clearly discriminatory for its peaceful nuclear programmes.

I have attempted to tell you about the major areas of change and the way India

has featured in them and tried to influence them. In a sense we ourselves are very much an integral part of this progress of change as well as greatly affected by it.

Through all this, our endeavour has been to promote our national interest and strengthen the principles for which India has always stood. I would like very briefly to narrate how the Janata Government is pursuing this task.

My Government has followed the principle of continuity in foreign policy where it was desirable and based on national consensus. Where the national perception was in favour of a change, or change in emphasis, we have not hesitated to bring that about.

PRIORITIES

You may recall that the Janata Party's election manifesto called for top priority, in foreign policy, to be given to relations with neighbours. We have pursued this line - to build bridges of trust and co-operation with our neighbours - with diligence and vigour. The significant results of this effort are evident to all. I would add that our policy is allowing geography, the logic of good neighbourliness, to reassert itself against the aberrations of recent history.

As you know, our Prime Minister visited Nepal recently. I myself had been to that friendly country earlier. I have also bad the pleasure of enjoying the hospitality in recent months of Burma, Bhutan and Afghanistan. In a few days' time I will be visiting another close neighbour Pakistan at the kind invitation of the Pakistan Government. I look forward to holding talks with the leaders of that country on our bilateral relations and other questions of common concern.

In doing all this, we are motivated by a sincere desire to forge closer ties of friendship, remove past misunderstandings and explore fresh pastures of mutually advantageous co-operation. If we succeed in enlarging the areas of understanding, a firm foundation for regional cooperation will have been laid. I have no hesitation in claiming that

our successes in this field have not been inconsiderable.

What I anticipate and earnestly hope for is an enlarged concept of mutual interdependence extending from Iran to the Indo-Chinese peninsula which would permit uninterrupted interchange of commerce, economic and cultural cooperation and ideas..

What we envisage is a community of equal and sovereign nations, enriching each other with their national assets, economic, scientific and technological achievements as well as their culture and heritage.

I am conscious that this would take a long time in coming. But if Western Europe, with all its crisscrossing national predilections and diversity, could knit itself together in an integrated economic community, there is no reason why we in this region of Asia should not be able to do so.

DIVERSITY

There is great diversity amongst us, but there is a great deal more that unites us. We are all developing countries with similar problems of socioeconomic development. We have vast reservoirs of skilled and professional man-power and the infrastructure to sustain steady advance on the road of progress.

Let us then try to infuse our respective national will with the spirit of fraternal cooperation and make our region safe for diversity.

I have already spoken about our policy of genuine and constructive co-existence and genuine non-alignment. We are not only following a non-aligned path; our non-alignment is now seen to be transparently independent with no impression of a tilt in favour of or against any power.

Our relations with the great powers are being fashioned on strict bilateralism. We value our friendship and cooperation, proven in so many critical situations, with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. The recent visit of President Carter has cleared the way for the normal and stable growth of our bilateral relations and cooperation with the United States.

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Our policy on the situation is West Asia has been reiterated time and again. As you know, later today I will have an occasion at a public meeting to speak at length on this subject.

MASSIVE MANDATE

I wish to state with all humility that in the conduct of our foreign policy, we have derived the greatest sustenance from the massive mandate of the people in favour of democracy and civil liberties.

India's strength is in the stability and wisdom of its society and the vast spectrum of its economic achievements. It enables us to engage in equal and mutually beneficial exchange with the most sophisticated technological societies and at the same time in modest, but rapidly expanding technical assistance programmes with a large number of developing countries.

We have however no illusions or desire of playing a world role or the role of a leader in any area or grouping. We are aware that tempting images of a special role for India with her own spheres of influence are being dangled before us.

But we refuse to accept a role based on the recognition of the concept of power.

The theory of balance of power is at best medieval. It is a dangerous concept and generates mistrust and tensions.

Power, when it comes out of the barrel of a gun, breeds arrogance and violence.

Power, when it flows out of the love and trust of the people, represents an opportunity to serve.

It is the latter kind of strength that we have sought and received. We will use it to enlarge the areas of harmony and cooperation, first of all in our own region, to promote peace and stability.

In a world, where ideology has rapidlygrown weaker as a force, India has to take into account the rising reassertion of nationalism. Slogans of liberal solidarity and world revolution had succeeded in muting the voice of nationalism for a while. But it has emerged once again as the dominant force in international affairs.

We have nothing to be afraid of this phenomenon. There are two kinds of nationalism; the oppressor's nationalism is callous, savage and dangerous. But that bred by alien oppression is resurgent, progressive and benign.

I do not have to dwell upon the uniqueness of our national experience. This experience was renewed and recently refurbished by what has been described as the second liberation of India.

It is this resurgent, refurbished and nonrepugnant nationalism that has regained for India's foreign policy its original positive thrust.

INDIA USA FRANCE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SOUTH AFRICA RUSSIA SWITZERLAND NEPAL BHUTAN BURMA PAKISTAN IRAN

Date: Jan 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND HOME AFFAIRS

Shri Vajpayee's Speech at Gandhi Memorial Lecture

Speaking at the Gandhi Memorial Lecture in New Delhi on January 30, 1978, the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, said:

Lord Noel Baker and Friends,

I deem it a privilege to be associated with the Gandhi Memorial Lecture. Though 30 years have already passed after Gandhiji was crowned with martyrdom, we are dimly perceiving that we have still not appreciated the scope and dimensions of his philosophy and his programme of individual and social action. In many aspects of social life, he was in fact far ahead of his lime and he seems to have anticipated with uncanny wisdom many modern maladies which plague our society today. When we speak about Gandhiji's relevance to our generation, we are not indulging in mere rhetoric; he is with us in every aspect of our national life and we have discovered recently how perilous it would be for us as a nation to ignore the fundamental principles of freedom, individual dignity and equality which Gandhiji cherished.

IDEALS OF GANDHIJI

Today more than ever it is necessary for India as a nation to recall his absolutely

uncompromising emphasis on truth, non-violence, tolerance and compassion. All this he shared with other great leaders and reformers but what was essentially Gandhian was his insistence on the adoption of right and pure means to achieve his political goal. He believed that the adoption of the wrong or impure means to achieve the best of aims would be self-defeating. It was because we forgot these basic tenets of his philosophy that India had to pass through the valley of despair.

I am particularly happy to be able to be present at this lecture which is going to be delivered by one of the truly great men of our generation. Lord Noel Baker's life is unique; starting as a Labour Party militant and a pacifist in the early years of this century, he has lived on to make a lasting and creative contribution not only to the labour movement in Britain as a cabinet minister but also to the great movement for disarmament. He belongs to the great group of disarmament pioneers, who, in the early thirties

of this century, under the leadership of Arthur Henderson, dreamed about a world without arms. Throughout the second world war and afterwards he continued this struggle and his life-long devotion to the cause of disarmament has been recognised by the Nobel Peace Prize itself.

IMPORTANCE OF GANDHIJI'S THOUGHTS

I would not like to make too long an intervention on Gandhiji and his message today. I would only like to repeat that I said earlier that every day that passes brings fresh evidence of the importance of Gandhiji's thought in all aspects of life. There were several occasions when in our impatience we rushed to wrong conclusions about the Mahatma and his policies. I myself would like to confess that I was among those angry young people who judged the Mahatma and found him wanting at the time of India's partition on his approach towards the communal question. Now, however, we realise that to judge the Mahatma and his mission on the basis of this solitary issue was a blunder. His was a manysided personality and his great contribution cannot be seen or evaluated in its correct perspective on one event alone. Even on that single event, the decision to partition India, the new facts which are now coming to be known make it crystalclear that until the very end he himself resisted it. All this points to the need for a constant reassessment and revaluation of Gandhiji's thought and practice. It is not a collection of dead doctrines. It is a living philosophy which has a great deal to contribute to the future not only of India but of mankind.

MAN OVER MACHINE

We also thought in those days. in the arrogance of youth, that the old man in his insistence upon the importance of man over the machine, was far behind his time. History has its ironies and we, the sceptics about Gandhiji's vision are the victims of this irony. Today in a world seeking to escape the industrial pollution and possible nuclear catastrophe, we realise more than we did in Gandhiji's life-time how basic is his belief

in the harmony between man and nature. A simple and contented life-style based upon restraint in the individual's demands on society and the practice of self-control in daily living not merely as a social act but as an instrument of self-cultivation, - these are the things which Gandhiji tried to teach us. Every generation will have to rediscover this truth both in India and outside.

GANDHIJI BELONGS TO THE WORLD

This is important. Gandhiji belongs not to India but to the world. We in India have still to live up to the demands made on us by this great son of our country. We have failed him in so many respects. We are only beginning to learn the extent of his greatness. It is in other countries, during even this short period since his death, that men of courage and wisdom have found in Mahatma Gandhi a model to follow and a point of departure for new strategies of political and social action. In our days, Danilo Dolci (pronounced Danilo Dolchi) in Sicily, Father Peres in Belgium or Martin Luther King in the United States, wherever there has been oppression, suffering and unredressed wrongs, the message of Mahatma Gandhi has found a new shape and form in alien surroundings. These men are his true successors.

Finally I would like to say how befitting it is that you, Lord Noel Baker, should be here today to honour Mahatma Gandhi's memory. I have already referred to your contribution to disarmament, but we must remember that you have also been one of the courageous small group of friends of India in Britain, who led the campaign for

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India's freedom through several long and lonely years. It was, therefore, no accident that as Commonwealth Secretary you were directly involved in the transfer of power in India and the evolution of the New Commonwealth. Since independence also, you have been continuously involved with India and when democratic India was threatened, you were among the first to raise your voice in indignation. We are very proud indeed that we have a man of faith and such a friend of

India with us today to remember the greatness of Gandhiji.

INDIA USA ANGUILLA BELGIUM

Date: Jan 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND HOME AFFAIRS

India Pledges Additional Contribution to ILO

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on January 30, 1978 on India's additional contribution to I. L. O.:

India has pledged a 10 per cent increase in the country's contribution to the International Labour Organisation for the biennium 1978-79 to help off-set the drop in revenue caused by the withdrawal of the United States from the ILO.

In view of her long association with the organisation and her abiding interest in its activities, India would make a contribution of \$ 125000 (Rs. 10.65 lakhs) over and above her regular contribution for the biennium 1978-79.

The amount will be paid in two instalments - the first during 1978 and the second during 1979.

The US withdrew from the Organisation on November 6, 1977 and this has resulted a short-fall of 25 per cent in the income of the organisation budgetted for the biennium 1978-79. In pursuance of the decision taken by the ILO Governing Body in November, 1977, the Director-General, Francis Blanchard has appealed to the Member-States to help cover a part of the short-fall by voluntary contributions.

India is not only a founder member of the ILO, but she also holds a permanent nonelective seat in the ILO Governing Body as one of the ten countries of chief industrial importance. The country has been playing an active role in the activities of the ILO extending over a period of more than five decades.

INDIA USA

Date: Jan 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND HOME AFFAIRS

Conference of Pacific Area Travel Association

Inaugurating the 27th annual conference of Pacific Area Travel Association in New Delhi on January 23, 1978, the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai said:

Mr. Chairman, delegates and friends, Yours is a Conference which has great importance for bringing together people of the world and make them understand each other, which is a very vital necessity at present when all people are wanting to have peace and want to get rid of war. That can only come by understanding of each other and coming closer together.

I am very happy to learn that delegates have come from seventy countries or more and you are all concerned with increasing travel facilities and arranging travels and tours so that more and more people go round different countries, see for themselves, enjoy the time and also learn many things wherever they go.

This is an ancient country where travellers have come from centuries past being attracted by many things in this country and they have also given a rich history, if I may say so. In those days people used to travel for a particular purpose only. They could not travel in large numbers because they had no facility of travelling as they have today. But those travels were for long period otherwise they could not be effective. Only a few people undertook long journeys and they learnt a great deal and also gave a great deal wherever they went.

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In modern times, people do like to go to different nations, not only for seeing things, learning things, but also for recreation and for getting a change from the routine, that they have to follow everyday. Every country today is now trying to see that more and more tourists come to that country because it brings several benefits. In the first place, it increases the contact of the other people with the countries. It also enables it to earn foreign exchange which is more of a monetary consideration. But to my mind, monetary consideration is not the most important. It is only incidental. And I would not like to commercialise this thing because then it will lose its real purpose of giving satisfaction to those who go about and the country to which they go.

FACILITIES

It is, of course, necessary to see that facilities which are very necessary are made available to them so that people are encouraged to go to whatever countries they would like to go. And people would like to go to different countries so that they see different sites, different people and learn more and more things which may be useful to one's life.

India has many things which can offer a good attraction for many people, not only for its beauty and from the point of its antiquity, but also it gives an idea of what the Indian people are and what they stand for. It also gives to us an opportunity to know from others, how we appear to other people and in my view this is true to every country. It is not peculiar only to India. We are, therefore, very much interested in this, in-

creasing the tourist traffic not merely for having monetary benefits out of it. As I said this is only incidental in my view, because ultimately it cannot solve the question of the finances of the country. It can be a little help. But more particularly because we would like to benefit from tourists, who come here for various purposes so that we can learn from them also many things which will enable us to make our development more meaningful, and many sided. After all, one has to learn from others more than from oneself and therefore this affords a great chance for this country to benefit in its progress in all directions. It is, therefore, that facilities have to be provided and government has to help in this.

TRAVEL AGENCIES

But the travel agencies can certainly organise this much more efficiently than government can do; government can only help them, encourage them and make their work easier and more effective. What is necessary, particularly, is facilities for travel and facilities for staying in the different places where they want to go. And these facilities also ought to be provided in such a manner that they are available to people of moderate means, not only those who can afford a great deal of expenditure because I attach more value to people of moderate means going about, seeing things, learning things. But they cannot do this unless they get these facilities. These facilities can be given and it is this which requires to be organised more and more and it is not only the tourist from outside for whom it has to be done. Internal tourism, if it is properly organised, will also help outside tourists because then the accommodation will be more meaningful and more available to the ordinary people who cannot afford the 5-Star Hotels, if I may say so. Five Star hotels are all right, good only for those who can afford all that money. I cannot afford it myself. I do not know how many people can afford it.

EQUAL IMPORTANCE
Therefore, we have got to provide faci-

lities which are available to the ordinary people, who to my mind, are far more important. It is the bulk of the people who are more and more important for any nation or for the world, who are neglected more or less many a times. Unless every individual gets equal importance, I am afraid, we will not come to a happy world which we all want to have. And in tourism, people can roughshoulder together and can learn this lesson also. But that can happen only when tourists from all sections of the people are able to move about as they would like to and if they get those facilities. And it is this, I hope, your conference will think about and find out ways and means to see that more and more facilities are given. And it must not be merely for amusement or for pleasure that the travels are to be arranged. Along with pleasure, amusement and recreation, whatever they can learn, whatever they can see,

whatever they can benefit, they also must be made available to them in such a manner that they have it and they see it and benefit by it.

Then it will be more meaningful and more rich. Then this activity will be for human benefit and not merely as a sightseeing agency that can be supplied. Sight seeing is all right but then it becomes meaningless when it is only sight-seeing and nothing else goes out of it. As a matter of fact wrong things can also come out of it. It is, therefore, necessary to give a thought to it to see that it becomes meaningful in every way, both for recreation and pleasure and usefulness. These are to be combined in the arrangements that are to be made in the matter of tourist facilities. And you, who have experience of these matters, because you are the people who arrange these matters and give thought to it everyday, because this is the task that you have undertaken. Therefore, you can make suggestions which can be very useful and which can make this tourists life more and more pleasant, more and more of activity, so that more and more people go to different countries, exchange views and talk to each other and learn from each other and bring the world together.

We are living in a world, which is full of strife, of potential strife and one does not know, how it can end. But we are all trying to see that strife ends and world lives in peace and that there is no war. Whatever else one may do, if this is done and people begin to understand each other and understand fully and have respect for each other, which is even more important than knowing each other, then only peace will be achieved and not otherwise. And this is the direction in which tourists can help a great deal in my view as they used to do in the past. They also discover many things and this is also what can happen even in the modern age. It is, therefore, that I attach great importance to this activity in all countries, particularly, in my own country, and it is, therefore, with the greatest pleasure that I inaugurate the 27th Conference.

INDIA USA

Date: Jan 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND HOME AFFAIRS

Call for New Ethos of Tourism

Following is the full text of the speech of the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Shri Purushottam Kaushik:

Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Minister of Communication and distinguished delegates. I welcome the distinguished delegates to India. We are indeed happy that this historic city of Delhi has been chosen as the venue of the 27th Annual Conference of the Pacific Area Travel Association. I am also deeply grateful to our Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai for having accepted my request to inaugurate this Conference.

Twelve years ago in 1966 India had hosted the PATA Conference. The number of delegates attending this 27th Annual Conference is about thrice the number that attended the previous one. We have here representatives from more than 60 countries representing various segments of the travel industry -National Tourist Organisations, airlines, shipping companies, hotels, tour operators, transporters, railways, newspapers, magazines, etc. This Conference has provided us an opportunity to show to these distinguished leaders of the travel industry, tourist attractions and tourist facilities that India can offer. The deliberations of this Conference should also help in giving further impetus and direction to the future growth in world tourism.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

We are fortunate in having a rich cultural and natural heritage. Our endeavour is to make it possible for our people as well as international visitors to see and know this heritage. We are therefore creating facilities to suit the interests and requirements of tourists of different economic levels - youth hostels and tourist bungalows for the youth; dharamshalas sarais for the large number of pilgrims visiting centres of pilgrimage of different faiths scattered throughout the country; clean, comfortable and inexpensive hotel accommodation for the not-so-affluent domestic and international tourists: for the affluent tourists, 4 & 5-star hotels; facilities for trekking, skiing, and for viewing wild life.

The rapid advances in technological development has made it possible for people

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to travel fast and reach remote areas of the world in a matter of hours. Aggressive competition to capture tourist markets thus gives the appearance that tourism is being developed only as an end in itself, for its own sake. It is therefore about time that we pause and think what type of tourism we want. Are we to continue with the same old manner of developing tourism, or the new challenges require a new approach? To meet the new

challenges, it would be necessary for us to find a new ethos of tourism and its value, not in monetary terms alone, but as related to the culture and the life style of the people. And above all tourism needs to be developed not as an end in itself, but as the means of bringing socioeconomic benefits to the people. We can say that tourism has been successfully propagated only if it can bring about beneficial socioeconomic changes, and generates good-will and better understanding among the people of the world. I trust this august assembly will give thought to this concept of tourism.

Before I close I would like to mention that in making preparations for this Conference the Department of Tourism, Air India, Indian Airlines, India Tourism Development Corporation, as well as travel agents, hoteliers, various Ministries and Departments of the Government of India and State Governments have joined hands. I hope the arrangements made are up to your expectations, and your brief stay in India is comfortable and enjoyable.

With these words, I welcome you all again, and would request the Prime Minister to inaugurate the 27th Annual Conference of the Pacific Area Travel Association.

INDIA USA

Date: Jan 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND HOME AFFAIRS

Prime Minister's Address at International Solar Energy Congress

Inaugurating the International Solar Energy Congress in New Delhi on January 16, 1978 the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji

Desai said:

President of the Congress, Dr. Atma Ram and friends! In days when we are worried about the sources of energy which are getting exhausted and also are becoming very costly, solar energy can provide an alternative which is inexhaustible. Therefore, this International Congress, which has been doing this work for the last twenty-four years, has a very important role and function in harnessing solar energy for the benefit of mankind. We, in this country, as in some others also, worshipped the Sun. This was not merely a superstition. The Sun was worshipped as the source of great energy in many things. I do not know whether many people know that the light of the Sun can cure some of the eye troubles also, if properly utilised. But most people do not know it and whatever is freely obtained, people do not have much value for it. It can also strengthen the body and it was because of many such uses that it became a part of religious worship. But as times went on, the uses were forgotten and only the worship remained; and, therefore, it went into background.

But today, when the oil problem has become a headache for many countries because of the rise in prices and more because it is likely to be exhausted in a given number of years, many countries are trying to find out alternate sources of energy because without energy we cannot do any great thing. Man's energy, of course, is the greatest factor in all these matters, but it is man's energy which utilises other sources of energy for finding out many ways of benefiting human society and making the life of man more comfortable and even meaningful.

Solar energy has attracted the attention of many people for some years now and many claims also are made, I do not know whether they are premature, but this has to be gone into deeply and we have got to find ways of using solar energy in a manner which becomes not very costly, otherwise it may not be of a great use.

INGENUITY OF SCIENTISTS

I am quite sure the ingenuity of scientists can find out ways and means to harness solar energy for all kinds of purposes, even for the production of electricity. But the problem is a bit complicated because solar energy is not obtained throughout and is obtainable at periods - long periods in some

21 places and short periods in some places. During part of the year you cannot get it on many days.

We have, therefore, to find out how best it can be stored if it is to be utilised every day and unless it is to be utilised every day and unless it is to be of use every day, it cannot replace other sources of energy. This requires a very continuous research about the ways of harnessing this energy, how best to utilise it for different purposes.

The International Congress has been doing very great work in this direction and I hope and trust that it will be able to find out the best means of using this inexhaustible source of energy for human benefit. If it can be stored, which is possible in my view by scientific methods, I am sure it can be used properly by everybody. In the modern days, science and technology have advanced so much that we can always hope to find out new methods and new ways of increasing our instruments and our sources of energy and materials which go to make human happiness.

Solar energy, as I said, has been used ordinarily for purposes of health. When people were living more only in natural conditions, I think it was utilised also for different purposes in ordinary manner. I believe that it is the solar energy which sustains life and but for the Sun, if it disappears, I think we will also disappear from the surface of the earth. The Sun gives life and if it gives life, it can also sustain life and therefore I attach great importance to the work that has been done by the International Solar Energy Congress and by several scientists here in this country. While sonic things are done to utilise the solar energy for cook-

ing purposes and heating water, we have not yet found out ways whereby we can utilise this throughout the year and continuously for specific purposes. Unless that is done, it may not be possible to utilise the solar energy in a big way to replace other sources of energy.

ALTERNATE SOURCES OF ENERGY

It is very essential that we do find out alternate sources of energy, because after the industrial revolution man has been using up natural resources without any thought of the futures. We forget that they are all exhaustible sources of energy which we take out of the earth and we cannot increase their Supply. They are there, but if they are used up and exhausted, well one clay we will be without any sources of energy. But nature has given us plentiful in every way, but we sometimes do not observe the laws of nature. We think in our ego that we can exploit nature as much as we like without let or hindrance.

Therefore, we have misused nature sonic times in several directions and this is posing a danger, even the danger of pollution. Because of our thoughtless actions nature gets more harmful than beneficial.

Therefore along with the scientific advances, which are magnificent in many ways, we have to find out ways and means which can save us from misuse of natural resources. It must be recognised that we cannot conquer nature. If we try to do that nature will conquer us every minute and every time. But we can accommodate ourselves to nature, understand its laws and utilise them for our benefit, just as by utilising, by understanding the laws of nature, people have been able to go to the Moon which is a great feat. We can, that way find out the laws of nature and if we can use them properly without offending them, we can get inexhaustible sources of energy and materials for benefiting human life and all animal life, if I may say so.

INEXHAUSTIBLE SOURCE

Solar energy I feel is one of the most inexhaustible known sources of energy. And it is therefore, that we attach importance to it throughout the world now. I am, there fore, very glad that this Congress is meeting here and I hope and trust that we will benefit greatly by our deliberations not only we, but the world at large, because this is a source of common use and nobody can monopolise it. That is one safety in it, otherwise there are many things which are getting monopolised and which creates difficulty. But this is one source which cannot be monopolised by anybody, it is open to everybody to use it. It is, therefore, one of the best sources for mankind and I suppose that is why we started worshipping the Sun here, though it is considered perhaps by some people, who consider themselves very wise as superstition. Well even knowledge becomes superstitious when it is not assimilated properly and utilised wrongly.

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I thank you very much for inviting me in your midst. I cannot claim any scientific knowledge about it, but I am one of the beneficiaries of your efforts. And, therefore, I thank you for inviting me in your midst and enabling me to take part in this very useful work for the whole human society in the world.

INDIA USA

Date: Jan 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND HOME AFFAIRS

Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on January 18, 1978 on the ratification of convention by

India:

India has ratified the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage adopted by the UNESCO General Conference.

The Convention envisages that member States will take effective measures for the protection, conservation and preservation of the Natural and Cultural Heritage on their territory. The States should promote appreciation of this heritage through education and information programmes.

The Convention also contemplates the creation of the World Heritage Fund, India's contribution towards this Fund will be about \$ 16,00 for two years beginning from 1977-78.

Cultural heritage broadly includes monuments, groups of buildings and sites. Natural heritage has been defined under three broad heads, namely natural features, geological and physiographical formations and natural sites.

The Instrument of Ratification has been deposited with the Director-General of UNESCO.

The Convention was adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in 1972.

INDIA

Date: Jan 01, 1978

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IRELAND

Shri Sanjiva Reddy's Speech at Banquet in Honour of President of Ireland

The President, Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy,

made the following speech at the banquet in honour of His Excellency Dr. Patrick J. Hillery, President of the Republic of Ireland, in New, Delhi on January 29, 1978:

Your Excellency Dr. Hillery, Mrs. Hillery, Your Excellency Mr. O'Kennedy, Distinguished guests,

We are happy to welcome Your Excellency and Mrs. Hillery on the eve of our Repubic Day. You are no stranger to India, for we recall your visit as the head of the Irish delegation to the second UNCTAD Conference in New Delhi in 1968. We hope that your visit will revitalise and strengthen bonds of friendship between the people of Ireland and India

Excellencies, it is not only as Republics that our countries rejoice in their affinity. Way back in the mists of time - the Celtic Dawn if one may term it so - there were people in our lands, geographically so far apart, sharing a recognisable kinship. The history of Ireland is replete with intervals of happiness and sorrow. This reminds us of our own vicissitude of fortune over the longyears of our history. Ireland like India has endured invasion and alien domination with all its humiliation and your country, like India, has been redeemed by heroes and heroines, patriots whose lives were an inspiration. In our country, Eamon de Valera and Mahatma Gandhi are exemplars whose qualities of mind and spirit have left an indelible mark not only on contemporary his-

23 tory but on the future as well. When we framed our Constitution, we drew inspiration from the "Directive Principles of State Policy" enshrined in your Constitution.

The great poet William Yeats wrote that "words alone are certain good" and eulogised the Irish bards who sang "to sweeten Ireland's wrong". Let us not forget that Yeats was responsible for bringing before the world the then unknown masterpiece of our Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore's 'Gitanjali'. Ireland's contribution to 20th Century literature includes glorious names

like George Bernard Shaw, James Joyce, J. M. Synge and Samuel Beckett who have earned undying fame. We trust that your visit to India would, among other things, help to promote a wider mutual appreciation of our literary and cultural heritage.

ORDEAL

We in India have recently passed through an ordeal when all the values in life which the Founding Fathers of our Nation cherished were put to severe test. That we emerged out of this traumatic experience is a lasting testimonial to our common mail who undaunted by odds exercised his precious franchise in favour of a democratic way of life, liberty and personal freedom. By striving sincerely to create in our sub-continent a network of relations based on goodwill and mutual trust we hope to reduce tensions in the world around us.

Excellency, we are aware that under your leadership, Ireland joined the European Community of which it has now become a full member. We are happy that your country has not only developed its economy by this association but has also sought to promote praiseworthy constructive policies in the councils of the community. We trust that our friendship will be one of the influential themes in the relationship of the European Community with the non-aligned countries.

In wishing you and your distinguished delegation a happy sojourn in our country, may I invite you all to rise and toast the health of H.E. Dr. Hillery, the President of the Republic of Ireland. Mrs. Hillery, H.E. Mr. O' Kennedy, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Ireland, Mrs. O'Kennedy and the well-being of the Irish people.

IRELAND INDIA USA

Date: Jan 01, 1978

Volume No

Shri Sanjiva Reddy's Speech at Banquet in Honour of President of Ireland

Dr. Hillery's Reply

Replying to the toast, H.E. Dr. Hillery said:

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I should like to thank you on behalf of my wife and myself and the members of my party for your kind expression of goodwill towards Ireland. May I assure you that these sentiments are most heartily reciprocated by me and by the people of Ireland in our feelings towards your great country.

India was the birth place of one of the first of the great world civilisations. Its achievements in all fields of human endeavour have immeasurably enriched mankind.

Without the discoveries of early Indian mathematicians, all modern science would have been impossible.

The many flowerings of Indian art have proven a timeless source of inspiration, first to her neihbours and later to the world as a whole.

The depth of the Indian mind first revealed in the Vedas and manifested in the lives and works of an unending series of rishis, saints, and philosophers, has raised man's consciousness of what lies within and beyond himself.

These are the achievements of the past which have placed us all deeply in India's debt. They do not end there. Today Indian scientists are to be found in the forefront of achievement in every sphere, while India continues to be the vibrant centre of a distinctive culture - music, art and thought - which she shares with the world.

In the past centuries, Ireland and India had been prevented by their distance, apart and absence of sovereignty from developing close relations. There were, however, many similarities in our progress to achieve freedom and many contacts between the freedom-fighters of both countries. Some of the Indian leaders studied in Ireland and drew important lessons from what happened there. Others educated in Britain took a close in-

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terest in developments in Ireland and many referred to them in their writings. Jawaharlal Nehru, for instance, has many interesting comments on Ireland and in particular on her example in showing the way to freedom to tier fellow-victims of colonialism.

We in Ireland watched the Indian freedom movement with profound sympathy from its beginnings. Some Irish people such as Sister Nivedita actively identified themselves with India on Indian soil.

NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS

We would wish to think that the example of our own national consciousness provided some encouragement and help to Indian patriots. The task of forging the Indian political consciousness and of bringing India to freedom and democracy was such that it could not have been accomplished without the inspiration and dedication provided by truly great patriots whose work is a matter for admiration far beyond India itself.

The world has seen few men of the calibre of Mahatma Gandhi. He examplified in his life and teachings the best of India's traditions and pointed India on the path to progress to a modernity which yet cherished its past. Although he was deeply rooted in the culture of his native land, this heroic and saintly man is as much a part of the common experience of mankind as that of his own people. He gave his life for India but his work, his teachings and his examples have a relevance far beyond his own country. His influence and goodness are still at work in many places throughout the world. They

have a lasting relevance to the human situation.

INSPIRATION OF MAHATMA GANDHI

Under the inspiration of the Mahatma numerous patriots throughout India worked for their country in his time. Sardar Patel forged the brotherly bonds of unity between India's people amid great difficulties and Jawaharlal Nehru led her to independence and democracy and gave voice in the councils of the world to the high moral standards which the Mahatma had taught. The work of these early leaders of modern India is a source of inspiration for their able successors in their formidable task of bringing to India the prosperity which its people deserve.

The oldest Irish and Indian traditions, Celtic and Aryans, spring from a common Indo-European source. The work of scholars in each field has cast light on our common cultural origins. There is a fruitful field for further cooperation between them.

Many of our modern writers and poets have looked to India for inspiration and guidance. Our greatest poet, Yeats, was particularly interested in Indian philosophy and this influence is evident in many of his finest works. He corresponded with Tagore, his great Indian contemporary, translating his poems into English and producing one of his plays in the Abbey Theatre in Dublin. There is a continuing interest by Irish writers in India and its great classics of literature and philosophy.

Cultural exchanges between the two countries have not been limited to literature. One of our most prized institutions in Dublin is the Chester Beatty Library which contains a collection of Indian art. The Indian cinema is well known to us and Indian film-makers have participated in the Cork film festival. Just before I left Dublin, an Indian film week took place in the Irish film theatre. Indian dance and Indian music has been performed in Ireland and I hope will be performed even more frequently in the future. Irish artists have participated in the international exhibitions of the Lalit Kala Akademi and will

participate in the current exhibition. Those continuing contacts have enriched the cultural life of Ireland, and, I hope, also of India

CONTACTS

The contacts between our two countries have increased in the last three decades through our mutual interest in world peace and the rights of peoples to self-determination and freedom. At the United Nations we have cooperated in working towards these ends and Irish and Indian soldiers have served together in U.N. peace-keeping forces. On a whole range of political and economic issues facing the international community at the present time I am glad to say that we stand close together. In particular, we share a belief in the need for a more equitable economic order in the world. The representatives of both our countries have spoken in international organisations in favour of the working out of a fair and just economic relationship between nations, and particularly between industrialised and developing countries.

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These, historical, cultural and international contacts between our two countries are supplemented by personal contacts, which are the best means of all of fostering good relations. Irish teachers have played a role of which we are proud in helping to give India the foundations of her impressive pool of scientists, administrators and academics. This contribution is the most lasting monument to the Irish in India. In Ireland, in turn, Indians are to be found in business, academic life and in the professions. Indian students have had a long tradition of coming to Ireland. We are privileged that they have come to Ireland and that we are able to offer them skills which they have used to the benefit of their motherland.

I could not conclude without mentioning our great admiration for the progress India has achieved since its independence. We in Ireland have had to meet our own challenges. These were much smaller in scale than yours, but give us a better appreciation of the tremendous challenges you have faced and the

splendid way you have tackled them. Your agriculture, your industry, your science, Your giant stature in world affairs all bear witness to this.

Mr. President, in spite of the disparity in the size of our two countries and the geographical distance which separates us, there have been significant contacts between us and a sharing of attitudes on a wide variety of issues. We in Ireland have just completed the transition period for our membership of the European Communities. We hope that the following of our European vocation will give us in the future even greater opportunities for contact with India and for continuing our shared commitment to creating a world free of fear, of violence, of oppression and of racial conflict. Each of us - whether great like India, or small like Ireland - has a vital part of play in creating a better world.

Mr. President, may I give you a toast to the President, Prime Minister, Government and people of India and to the friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

IRELAND INDIA USA

Date: Jan 01, 1978

Volume No

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MAURITIUS

Indo-Mauritius Trade Talks

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on January 6, 1978 on the Indo-Mauritius trade discussions:

Ways and means of increasing and diversifying Indo-Mauritius trade was discussed in New Delhi on January 6, 1978 when the

visiting Mauritius Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr. D. Basant Rai, called on Shri Mohan Dharia, Union Minister of Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation. The Mauritius Minister was accompanied by Mr. P. Mohith, Secretary of the Industrial Development Board and Mr. R. Mahgendra, Principal Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The two Ministers discussed the development of sugar industry and the prospects of increasing international trade in sugar. The Mauritius Minister said that it was his Government's policy to welcome more Indian industrialists in his country. Last year, India signed an agreement with Mauritius for the development of small scale industries in that country. The specific areas of cooperation were identified as establishment of consultancy services, agro-based, forest-based, light engineering and textile industries and setting up of common facility-cum-training workshop.

Indo-Mauritius trade has developed over the last few years. India's exports to Mauri-

26 tius have grown from Rs. 19.1 million 1972-73 to Rs. 111.36 million in 1976-77

India's exports to Mauritius include marine products, spices, un-manufactured tobacco, chemical elements and compounds, medicinal and pharmeuctical products, cogmetics, rubber products, textile, jute manufactures, cotton manufactures, glass, iron and steel, aluminium items, metal manufactures, machineries and transport equipments, furniture, ready-made garments, foodwears and developed cinematographic films.

MAURITIUS USA INDIA RUSSIA

Date: Jan 01, 1978

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MAURITIUS

Minister Calls on Shri Barnala

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on January 20, 1978 when the Mauritius Minister called on Shri Barnala:

Mr. Satcam Bollell, Minister for Agriculture of Mauritius, called on Shri Surjit Singh Barnala, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation in New Delhi on January 20. The Mauritius Minister was accompanied by Mr. Rajmohunsing Jomadar, High Commissioner for Mauritius in India and Mr. Basdeo Joynathsing, General Manager, Agricultural Marketing Board of Mauritius.

Mr. Bollell evinced keen interest in the improved farm technology in India and sought India's assistance in the diversification of agricultural practices in Mauritius. Shri Barnala assured to extend all possible assistance to Mauritius and make available suitable agricultural scientists to study the soil and climatic conditions of Mauritius and the possibilities of the diversification of agricultural practices in that country. They also discussed other matters of mutual interest.

MAURITIUS USA INDIA LATVIA PERU

Date: Jan 01, 1978

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NEPAL

Jawaharlal Nehru Award for 1977

The Vice-President, Shri B. D. Jatti, in his capacity as Chairman of the Jury of the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding, made the following announcement in New, Delhi on January 25, 1978: It gives me great pleasure to announce that the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for 1977 will go to Shri Tulsi Meharji Shrestha, a humble, selfless, social worker from Nepal who has quitely and unpretentiously worked for the uplift of the poor and the unfortunate. He has been a disciple of Gandhiji who has carried his message beyond this country and also cemented ties between Nepal and India in the interest of peace and international understanding which was a matter as close to Jawaharlal Nehru's ideas.

Each year the Jury has a formidable task to go through the number of nominations received from all over the world. Some eminent men and one pious woman form the galaxy of Nehru Award winners. This year we have selected a man who has desired no recognition or personal reward, but whose dedicated service is an example for all of us to follow. It was our unanimous choice to give the Nehru Award for 1977 to Shri Tulsi Meharji Shrestha of Nepal.

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NEPAL USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA OMAN

Date: Jan 01, 1978

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NEPAL		
Bilateral Talks		

The following is the text of a Press Note issued in New Delhi on January 25, 1978 on Indo-Nepal talks:

The Joint Communique issued at the time of Prime Minister Shri Morarji Desai's visit to Kathmandu from December 9 to 11, 1977 stated: "The two Prime Ministers agreed that separate treaties to cover trade and transit may be concluded expeditiously. It was furthre decided to provide, at the same time, for effective measures to control unauthorised trade from one country to the other."

Pursuant to this understanding a delegation from Nepal led by the Foreign Secretary, His Majesty's Government of Nepal, Shri U. D. Bhatt, visited New Delhi from January 17 to 25, 1978. Shri Bhatt was accompanied by Shri N. P. Aryal, Secretary (Transport), Shri N. K. Adhikari, Secretary (Finance) and Shri I. L. Shrestha, Secretary (Commerce and Industry), His Majesty's Government of Nepal and other officials.

The Indian delegation was led by the Foreign Secretary, Shri J. S. Mehta. He was assisted by Shri G. S. Sawhney, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Finance and other officials of the Ministries of Commerce, Finance, Shipping and Transport, Railways and External Affairs.

Intensive negotiations were held on matters relating to Indo-Nepal trade, transit and cooperation to prevent unauthorised trade between the two countries. The negotiations were conducted in a business-like manner in the atmosphere of traditional friendship and cooperation which characterises Indo-Nepal relations. Broad understanding has been reached on the frame work of the agreements, on the three issues.

Discussions were also held on the Protocols and other connected documents where many details have to be covered. The two sides are hopeful that on the basis of all the discussions held, it should be possible to conclude separate Treaties on Indo-Nepal Trade and Transit and an intergovernmental

agreement on cooperation with regard to possible unauthorised trade. The two sides agreed to resume negotiations at an early date in order to conclude the two Treaties and the Agreement along with the connected documents.

NEPAL INDIA USA

Date: Jan 01, 1978

Volume No

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NIGERIA

MECON Wins Major Contract in Nigeria

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on January 31, 1978:

A big contract for consultancy and project monitoring services for setting up Nigeria's largest industrial complex has been awarded to Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Ltd., a public sector consultancy organisation under the Ministry of Steel and Mines.

The industrial complex will include one direct reduction based integrated steel plant of one million tonnes capacity per year. A formal contract for this project was signed in Lagos, Nigeria, recently, by Shri K. C. Mohan, Chairman of MECON and Dr. R. A. Adeleye, Federal Commissioner for Industries, Government of Nigeria.

The steel plant, scheduled to be commissioned by the end of 1980, consist of

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gaseous reduction sponge iron making facilities, electric arc furnace, continuous casting facilities and rolling mills. The main equipment required for the plant will, however, be

supplied by a consortium of German companies. This is a major breakthrough in the international field where MECON has been chosen as consultant against stiff competition from well-established foreign companies.

It may be recalled that, in November 1977, MECON entered into a 10-year agreement with the Arab Iron and Steel Union, an international organisation having its headquarters in Algiers, for setting up of a design and consultancy engineering organisation for the Arab Iron & Steel Union. A convention for this agreement was signed by the Chairman, MECON, and by the Secretary General of the Union. This Design and Consultancy Engineering Organisation of the Arab Iron and Steel Union will commence functioning shortly. Having long-term objectives, it will provide all services for setting up steel plants on turn-key and productionnd-in-hand basis in the member-countries of the Union, namely, Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, UAE and Yemen, etc. MECON will arrange for training facilities for the engineers working in Arab Iron and Steel Union in India.

MECON has also prepared and submitted a Feasibility Report for installation of a small integrated steel plant in Liberia to the Liberian authorities recently. This plant will be based on utilisation of local iron ore and will have a capacity to produce 1,50,000 tonnes of bars and rods, light structurals and wire rods per annum.

A new vista of cooperation between India and other developing countries has opened with these assignments undertaken by MECON.

NIGER NIGERIA INDIA USA ALGERIA EGYPT IRAQ JORDAN KUWAIT LIBYA MAURITANIA MOROCCO SUDAN SYRIA TUNISIA UNITED ARAB EMIRATES YEMEN LIBERIA

Date: Jan 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

NIGERIA

Agreement on Air Services

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on January 31, 1978 on the Indo-Nigerian air services agreement:

India and Nigeria signed an agreement on the operation of air services between the two countries in New Delhi on January 31, 1978.

The agreement provides for the operation of two services a week by the designated airlines of India and Nigeria on the specified routes. At present, Air India is operating a weekly service to Lagos by extending one of its two direct services to Nairobi. The designated airline of Niegria has not yet commenced operations to India.

The agreement was signed on behalf of the Government of India by Shri R. P. Naik, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation, and on behalf of the Federal Military Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria by H.E. Chief J. O. Omolodun.

NIGER NIGERIA INDIA KENYA

Date: Jan 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Better Prospects for Rail Traffic

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on January 2, 1978 on the rail traffic between India and Pakistan:

The Indian Railways delegation to Islamabad, Pakistan, has achieved a significant break-through in their talks with the Pakistan side which is likely to give a boost to exchange of goods and parcels traffic between the two countries.

The annual meeting between the Railway delegations of India and Pakistan took

place at Islamabad from December 26 to 29, 1977. The Indian delegation was led by Shri S. N. Sachdev, Director, Traffic Transportation, Ministry of Railways (India) and the Pakistan delegation was led by Mr. Sheikh Anwar Hussain, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Railways (Pakistan).

Both sides took note of the increasing level of freight traffic and assessed the scope of its further increase. To meet the demand of traffic, detailed procedure for exchanging 100 wagons daily was laid down. The procedure now agreed upon provides for greater flexibility in the day-to-day transactions of wagons between the two countries. A significant break-through was also achieved by realistically reformulating the standards of wagons, interchangeable between the two countries, in the light of changes in design and other structural modifications. This will enable more wagons becoming acceptable for loading and exchange between India and Pakistan. Iron and steel traffic from India to Pakistan has been steadily on the increase and to enable a higher volume of this traffic moving into Pakistan, the interchange of bogie open flat wagons, which carry heavy steel material, has been accepted in principle by both countries. Special rules have been framed to facilitate a regular flow of bogie open flat wagons between India and Pakistan. The Pakistan side has also assured that more and more terminals will be diversified and dumps created to deal with bulk traffic in iron and steel, asbestos pipes, conductors, cement, etc.

Another important decision taken at the meeting relates to the facility of a daily parcel service between the two countries. Modalities have been worked out to provide a bogie parcel van daily on the Express train running between Amritsar and Lahore.

The talks were held in a frank and cordial atmosphere and the decisions taken at this meeting are expected to come into force from February 1, 1978,

PAKISTAN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Jan 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

POLAND

Indo-Polish Trade

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on January 16, 1978 on the Indo-Polish trade:

The trade and payments agreement between India and Poland which was signed on December 21, 1974, expired on December 31, 1977. Pending the conclusion of the new trade and payments agreement, it has been mutually agreed between the two Governments that the existing rupee payments arrangments for trade between the two countries should be extended for a further period of 3 years from January 1, 1978 to December 31, 1980. Accordingly, all commercial and non-commercial transactions between the two countries shall continue to be conducted on the basis of payments in non-convertible Indian rupees as hitherto.

POLAND INDIA USA

Date: Jan 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

POLAND

Naval Chief Calls on President

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on January 20, 1978 on the visit of the Polish Naval Chief:

Vice Admiral Ludwik Janczyszyn, Commander-in-Chief, Polish Navy, who arrived in New Delhi on January 20, 1978 on a sevenday visit, called on the President Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy.

Earlier on arrival at the airport on the morning of January 20, he was received

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by Admiral Jal Cursetji, Chief of the Naval Staff, Mrs. Navaz Cursetji and senior naval officers at Naval Headquarters. Mr. Jan Czapla, Polish Ambassador in India was present at the airport to receive the distinguished guest.

Later in the day, the Polish Naval Chief called on the Chief of the Naval Staff, Raksha Rajya Mantri Professor Sher Singh, and Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri S. Kundu. He met the Defence Secretary, Shri Gian Prakash and also laid a wreath at Amar Jyoti.

Admiral Cursetji presented the steering wheel of Ex.INS Godavari to the visiting Polish Admiral, as a symbol of friendship between the Navies of Poland and India, when the latter called on him, INS Godavari, Ex HMS DEDALE before its transfer to Indian Navy in 1953, saw service with the Polish Navy from 1942 to 1946 as ORP

POLAND INDIA

Date: Jan 01, 1978

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SWEDEN

Air Force Chief Returns Home

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on January 30, 1978 on the visit to India of Lieutenant General D Stenberg:

Lieutenant General D Stenberg, Commander-in-Chief of the Swedish Air Force, left New Delhi on January 30 for Sweden on completion of his six-day visit to the country at the invitation of Air Chief Marshal H. Moolgavkar, Chief of the Air Staff.

During his stay in India, the Swedish Air Chief called on the President, Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy, the Raksha Mantri, Shri Jagjivan Ram and discussed subjects of mutual interest with the Chief of the Air Staff.

Lt. Gen. Stenberg, who was accompanied by his wife, visited a fighter base in the Western Sector and the Air Force Academy at Hyderabad. He took keen interest in the modern methods of training pilots and other Air Force personnel at the Academy.

When Lt. General D. Stenberg visited a forward fighter base in the Western Sector, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Air Command, Air Marshal E. Dhatigara, explained to him the working of the operational wing of the base. The visiting Chief watched a scramble by a section

of Gnat fighter interceptors.

Later in the day, the Swedish Air Chief and Mrs. Stenberg flew to Jaipur. On arrival, they were given a traditional welcome to the pink city by a group of girl cadets of the Air Wing of the local National Cadet Corps. Among other interesting places, Lt. General Stenberg visited the Chandra Mahal and the Amber Mahal.

The Swedish Air Chief and the other members of his party witnessed the Republic Day Parade and Beating Retreat.

Lt. Gen. Stenberg and Mrs. Stenberg were seen off, among others, by Air Chief Marshal H. Moolgavkar, Smt. Tara Moolgavkar, Air Marshal E. Dhatigara and Smt. Maperviz Dhatigara.

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SWEDEN INDIA USA

Date: Jan 01, 1978

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SINGAPORE

Singapore Deputy Prime. Minister Calls on President

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on January 31, 1978 on the visit of the Singapore Deputy Prime Minister:

Dr. Goh Keng Swee, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Singapore, who is now on a five-day visit to India, on January 31, 1978 called on the President, Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, here.

Earlier, Dr. Goh called on the Prime

Minister, Shri Morarji Desai.

Dr. Goh discussed matters of mutual interest with Shri Jagjivan Ram, Minister of Defence. Present during the discussions were Defence Secretary, Shri Gian Parkash, Secretary Defence Production, Shri S. Banerji, and the three Services Chiefs, General T. N. Raina, Admiral Jal Cursetji and Air Chief Marshal H. Moolgavkar. Dr. Goh expressed interest in availing of the training facilities in military training establishments to a greater extent by sending more senior officers to attend various courses here.

Dr. Goh paid the homage at the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat and at the Amar Jawan at India Gate earlier on January 31. He visited the Defence Industries Exhibition where he was accompanied by Shri S. Banerji, Secretary, Defence Production Department.

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE INDIA USA

Date: Jan 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

India Extends Credit of Rs. 10 Crores to Sri Lanka

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on January 25, 1978 on the extension of Indian credit to Sri Lanka:

India will extend a credit of Rs. 10 crores to Sri Lanka to finance purchases of capital and intermediate goods from India. An agreement to this effect was signed in New Delhi on January 25, 1978 by Dr. Manmohan Singh, Secretary, Department of

Economic Affairs on behalf of the Government of India and by Mr. Arthur Basnayake, High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in India on behalf of his Government.

The credit was agreed upon after the discussions held during the visit of Mr. Ronnie de Mel, Minister of Finance & Planning of Sri Lanka earlier this month (January). The credit will carry a rate of interest of 5 per cent and be repayable over a period of 15 1/2 years including a grace period of 3 years. It will finance purchases in India by Sri Lanka of a variety of capital and intermediate goods like vehicles of all kinds, electrical and telecommunication equipment, industrial, agricultural and construction equipment, railway equipment and steel billets and wire rods.

STEPS TO INCREASE ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH SRI LANKA

Steps to increase economic cooperation between India and Sri Lanka were discussed between Shri H. M. Patel, Union Finance Minister and Mr. Ronnie de Mel, Sri Lanka Finance Minister at a meeting in New Delhi on January 12.

Mr. De-Mel later called on the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai.

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Date: Jan 01, 1978

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TUNISIA

India and Tunisia to Further Strengthen Cultural Relations

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on January 30, 1978 on the visit of the Tunisian Minister of Culture:

India and Tunisia propose to further strengthen cultural relations between the two countries. This view was expressed when the Tunisian Minister for Culture, Mr. Chedly Klibi, called on the Union Minister for Education, Social Welfare and Culture, Dr. P. C. Chunder, in New Delhi on January 30. In this connection they particularly laid emphasis on holding art exhibitions, artistic festivals and exchange of films.

Dr. Chunder felt that. experts should be asked to explore the scope of cooperation in the field of cultural activities. The visiting Minister suggested that Arabic publications on Islamic studies could be exchanged. Dr. Chunder informed him that adequate facilities were available in India to promote the Arabic and Persian studies. Some universities and madrassas were also providing facilities for postgraduate studies in these Subjects.

The Tunisian Minister said that plastic exhibitions could be held in India and the Tunisian School of Art was devoting particular attention in this field. India and Tunisia have a Cultural Exchange Agreement.

TUNISIAN MINISTER FOR CULTURAL CALLS ON SHRI ADVANI

Mr. Chedly Klibi also called on Shri L. K. Advani, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting. They exchanged views on films, broadcasting and Press.

Shri Advani explained to the visiting Minister the functioning of the media, particularly the films and Press, and how freedom had been restored to the Press after the new Government took over.

Mr. Chedly Klibi stated that the film industry in Tunisia was in its infancy and was largely importing films from Egypt, India, U.S.A. and France. Mr. Klibi who is also

the Chairman of National Films Corporation of his country expressed the hope that his country would like to import more than the present number of Indian films. Tunisia at present is importing 20 Indian feature films per year. India has already signed an agreement with IMPEC for import, of Indian Feature films.

Earlier, the visiting Minister called on the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, the Minister for External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the Minister for Education, Social Welfare and Culture, Dr. P. C. Chunder.

TUNISIA INDIA USA EGYPT FRANCE

Date: Jan 01, 1978

Volume No

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UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Joint Indo-Soviet Textbook Board - Priority Fields to be Identified

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on January 16, 1978 on the 10th Indo-Soviet textbook board:

The Joint Indo-Soviet Textbook Board, which has concluded its tenth meeting in New Delhi, has taken a number of decisions to implement the joint textbook programme between the two countries. The objective of this Programme is to make available Soviet books to Indian students in priority subject fields in low priced editions.

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The Board decided that pending adoption of measures for teaching Russian language to students and scholars in large numbers, to enable them to have direct access

to the vast knowledge in USSR, the present programme of translating Soviet titles into English, may be continued. The Board, however, emphasised the need for speedy and effective implementation of the joint programme. In this context, the Board considered various measures and took, inter alia, the following decisions:

- (1) The Indian side will identify select courses in priority fields of academic instruction and send the Syllabi in respect of those courses to the Soviet side, in English and Russian language. The Soviet side, on their part, will identify suitable titles in respect of such syllabi and supply copies of the titles to enable the Indian side to consider their suitability for publication under the programme.
- 2. The Indian side may obtain, from the Indian scholars studying studied in the USSR information about Soviet books based on their knowledge and closer association with the Soviet background, to enable the Indian side to identify books suitable in the Indian context.
- 3. The Soviet side may make available to the Indian side, copies of all textbooks and reference books in the selected fields which will be set up as library of Soviet text and reference books to enable the Indian side to select, from time to time, books suitable for publication. The Soviet side may also consider sending to this library copies of all their technical journals and periodicals in respect of areas and subject-fields identified by the Indian side.
- 4. A minimum number of 25 books will be brought out under the programme before the Board meets next.
- 5. Facilities for learning Russian language in India may be augmented, particularly at the post-graduate and post-doctoral levels to enable more and more Indian scholars to have a working knowledge of Russian language as adopted for specific subjects of learning such as medicine, engineering, etc. This would enable Indian scholars to study Soviet books in original instead of transla-

tions. The Soviet side will consider the possibility of rendering appropriate assistance in studying the Russian language by making available the methodology, teaching materials and training aids. The Indian side may evaluate the textbooks and teaching aids in studying the Russian language submitted by the Soviet side for the purpose of their possible use at the educational institutions of India.

- 6. The possibilities of exchange of school level readers, not textbooks but of a supplementary character which would be of use to Indian school students will be studied.
- 7. Two standing bodies, one consisting of members from the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare and the Soviet Embassy in Delhi, and another consisting of members from the Ministry of Higher and Specialised Secondary Education, USSR and the Indian Embassy in Moscow, will be set up to review atleast once in two months the progress in the implementation of the Programme.

The Board decided to meet next at Moscow in April, 1979.

A protocol between the two sides was signed on January 16.

The Indian delegation was led by Shri P. Sabanayagam, Secretary, Ministry of Education and Social Welfare and Chairman of the Joint Indo-Soviet Textbook Board. The Soviet delegation was led by Prof. N. S. Egorov, Deputy Minister of Higher and Specialised Secondary Education, USSR.

The Board met in New Delhi on January 11 and January 12. The Board was set up in 1965 with five members each from the Indian and Soviet sides.

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INDIA RUSSIA USA **Date**: Jan 01, 1978

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UNITED KINGDOM

Prime Minister's Speech at Banquet in Honour of British Premier

Speaking at the banquet hosted in honour of His Excellency The Rt. Hon'ble James Callaghan, M.P., Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and Mrs. A. Callaghan, the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai said in New Delhi on January 7, 1978:

It is with a deep sense of personal satisfaction that I welcome you and Mrs. Callaghan in our midst this evening. I was happy to see you, Mr. Prime Minister, when I visited Britain six months ago for the meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government, which coincided with the festive celebration of the Silver Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Both of us also share memories of a warm association going back to the years when we were holding the Finance portfolio in our respective Governments - perhaps a charge no less exacting but rewarding than that of our present offices.

AMAZING STORY

Some future historians will be struck by the amazing story of the relations between our two countries. At the beginning of the twentieth century, India was regarded as the brightest jewel in the British Crown. By the middle of the century, India had not only won its independence, but set in train the process which led to the dismantling of many a colonial system. All empires have known to feel that they would last for ever, but in the end every nation succeeds ere long in becoming the master of its own destiny. However, there is no parallel to India's sustained non-violent struggle against foreign rule and the peaceful transition from an unequal im-

perial relationship to one based on dignity, equality and growing affection. We owe it to our leader Mahatma Gandhi who steeled our people for the goal of freedom and prescribed that only noble means must be used to attain it. He taught us to be fearless in defiance but never to let our souls be tainted by hate or corroded by bitterness. We rejected British Raj but wished to be friends with the British people. Britain and India together pioneered a path which led to the freedom of many countries from foreign rule and the emancipation of subject nations. The United Nations today presents the picture of a whole world of nations responsible for and seeking their own future and dealing independently with the multifarious problems of their own country and the world at large.

PEACEFUL STRUGGLE

Our peaceful struggle, the recognition by a predecessor Labour Government of the indomitable will and discipline of the Indian people and the negotiated process of the transfer of power to India will long be held up as a tribute to the wisdom of our leaders and the maturity of our two nations.

As we turned away from the mistrust and hostility of this period, we did not hesitate to preserve what was good in our historical connection. As you see, we still use the English language. (Lord Macaulay's minute may have created the clerical infrastructure for the British Empire in India, but it also introduced us to Shakespeare, Burke and John Stuart Mill.) We fashioned a Constitution which was adapted to our needs and for that we chose the British pattern of Parliamentary democracy. Our judiciary remains much as was derived from British forms and jurisprudence. Many other institutions - our civil administration, the structure of our defence forces, our educational system - still bear the stamp of our historical association. It is a measure of our self-confidence that we can acknowledge such debts even when we have moulded them to our national ethos and dignity.

RATIONAL JUDGEMENT

It was in the same spirit of independent but rational judgment that India chose to become a republic and yet retain its association with the Commonwealth. It must not be denied that Britain's own resilience and wisdom helped to transform the empire into a Commonwealth of Nations sovereign in their own domain and of equal status in Commonwealth and world councils. It is now a multi-racial, multi-continental grouping

whose informal and flexible responses to felt needs provide an example of co-operation among nations in all their diversity.

In the 30 years since independence, India has seen tremendous changes. Abroad we have worked for world peace through an independent policy and steadfast adherence to non-alignment. At home we have striven for self-reliance and developing economy. We have built the basis of a modern industrial economy. We have reached a fair level in technology and science, which at least gives us the confidence to plan in our own way for our tasks ahead. We are now determined to tackle the great problem of poverty by literally going to the roots - in the fields and villages. We do not hide that we have immense tasks ahead of us, but what has been achieved is fair testimony that a free people in disciplined endeavour alone can marshall the national effort for national advancement. The world in general but the United Kingdom in particular has taken a sympathetic and constructive interest in our needs and progress for which we are really grateful.

LIBERTY

All this would be worthless without liberty. Last year our people in their millions showed how deeply they cherish their fundamental freedom and above all, the right to judge and choose their own rulers. My Government is conscious that the mandate that they gave us was to fulfil their aspirations not to abuse their trust while we hold reins of power. I hope no one will again doubt that democratic self-government can take root in a tropical soil. Indeed, may I say that democracy is no alien transplant

into India but a native growth nourished by our multi-layered culture and religions. our value of tolerance and our traditional village councils.

In these decades, Britain has also come through profound changes. We have no reservations about Britain seeking its role in a West European setting, and sincerely hope that the new resilience of British economy may enable the United Kingdom to maintain its traditional eminence in the world councils. We have watched with sympathy and interest and not without emulation the brave struggle your Government and your people have been taking up the challenge of severe economic stresses and strain. Your own part in successfully and skillfully piloting the ship of State so far has filled us with admiration. We also nurse the hope that with your historical experience of the wider world you will always ensure despite your domestic difficulties an especially keen insight into the problems of developing countries in their quest for a more equitable international economic order.

BILATERAL RELATIONS

For our part, since my Government took office, we have been trying to strengthen our beneficial bilateral relations with countries near and far, regardless of ideology and social systems. We are seeking to build bridges with the developing world and establish new sinews of co-operation with the industrialised nations. We have faith in a cooperative world system and reject the counsels of confrontation or those who despair of a peaceful international system. Need I say that we have a special place for you in our own thinking.

Our particular efforts have been directed to make our own neighbourhood free of tension and reinforce the tradition of tolerance and good-neighbourliness, which is an ingredient of our civilisation. If the countries of the sub-continent jointly succeed in this, it would free us to direct even more vigorously our resources to the pressing needs of our own development. If the nations of South

Asia, with the wealth of intelligent and innovative people, are at ease with each other they may well provide a contagious example for the rest of the world to follow. We trust that well-wishers of South Asia will reinforce this trend towards regional calm and stability, and discourage outmoded ideas of balancing tensions in playing on old animosities.

Though there have been ups and downs in Indo-British relations in these. last three decades, I look upon your visit, Mr. Prime Minister, as an augury of a new era of stabilised, close and co-operative relations in the future. We are grateful for the steady flow of British assistance in our war against poverty. Its generous terms have made it all the more valuable. Very recently when we suffered a catastrophe from the tidal wave which swept accross the coast of Coromandel, we were deeply grateful for the spontaneous help offered by the British Government and people.

I sincerely believe that with so much of ideals and experience that we share, we can become trusted interpreters of each other, rid of any phobia or neurosis or hys-

36 teria. It can be a peculiarly special friendship that is mature with good sense, genial with good humour and vital with good hope.

As the harbinger of such a friendship, Mr. Prime Minister, we drink to your health and the health of Mrs Callaghan.

USA INDIA OMAN

Date: Jan 01, 1978

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UNITED KINGDOM

Reply by British Prime Minister

Replying to the toast, British Prime Minister said:

Mr. Prime Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very grateful, Mr. Prime Minister, for the kind word you have just spoken both about myself and my country, and for the warmth of the welcome which we have received since arriving in Delhi yesterday.

Mr. Prime Minister, we last met as Heads of Government at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London in June last year. I felt that during our two sessions of talks at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London we laid the basis for a constructive and close relationship.

I was, therefore, delighted to be able to take up the invitation to visit your country, which you kindly extended to me on that occasion. This has given us the opportunity to continue our discussions in Delhi, and in our two sessions of talk today we have confirmed and developed the very good understanding which exists between India and Britain.

As you know, I have been invited to give an address in the Central Hall of Parliament on Monday. As a Prime Minister elected to the Mother of Parliaments, I am grateful for the opportunity, and conscious of the honour, of giving an address in the Parliament of the largest democracy in the world.

I shall on that occasion have some thoughts to offer about the relationship between our two countries and about the ways in which I believe that our Governments can and should co-operate closely in the future, to the benefit not only of our own peoples but of the world.

There is no shortage of topics for the agenda of my talks with you, Mr. Prime

Minister. In this era of interdependence, the problems of one are the problems of all.

This evening I shall mention only oneof them. Although my visit to South Asia has barely reached its half-way point, it has already sharpened our understanding - in this I speak for all the members of my party - of how much has to be done to raise the living standards of so many of the people of the region to a level which many more fortunate parts of the world would regard as the bare minimum.

Here in India, you have already achieved miracles - and when one thinks of the Green Revolution, miracle is not too strong a word - by your own efforts and through a combination of technical skill with national pride and spirit.

You have made a magnificent beginning as a burgeoning industrial power and producer of food. But with a growing population, already 600 million, as I know that you would be the first to admit, greater problems lie ahead.

These problems are on a scale which direct assistance from outside can barely touch. Fundamental solutions can only be achieved by the efforts of your people and by your efforts, their leaders.

We, your friends, can do help in relatively small and specific ways - with technology and with assistance for projects designed to help your industry and agriculture to achieve their own momentum.

ECONOMIC FUTURE

But your economic future, like ours, depends on the performance of the rest of the world's economy. None of us, in today's increasingly interdependent world, can prosper in isolation.

Wherever we come on the scale of relative economic development, we are all dependent - some of us critically so -- on being able to sell part of our output of goods and services abroad in order to pay for what we

need to import from outside. Your growth and ours depends on this.

If the level of demand in the major economies flags, none of us can realise our full potential. This is one of my very deep con-

37 cerns at present. None of the major economies are yet providing the steady expansion that the rest of the world badly needs.

When I discussed this problem with President Carter and other leaders of the industrialised world at the Downing Street summit last June, we agreed on the importance of providing the necessary stimulus to move our economies out of the long recession which had followed the increase in oil prices of 1973-74.

But the targets for growth we then set ourselves have not yet proved possible to meet. Investment is still hanging fire. Industrial production is generally flat. The world's steel industries, working at about 60 per cent of capacity, are facing their most serious crisis ever.

PRESSURES FOR PROTECTIONISM

Such conditions create dangerous pressures for protection. The exchange markets perform erratically, confidence is undermined. The consequences of allowing such a situation to continue for long will be adverse for us all.

I am determined that Britain should bend every effort, with her partners, to find ways of enabling the world's economy to be restored to full health. We really must find a way through and out of this world recession, Mr. Prime Minister. And because we must, I believe that we can and we will find a way through.

In Britain in fact we have already made a start. We have taken budgetary measures to increase economic activity, and we shall do more early this year through tax cuts and increased public investment. Indeed, Britain this year will have - and it has not been often in recent decades that a British Prime Minister has been able to say this - one of the faster growth rates in the advanced industrial countries. After a painful period of economic decline, including some painful political decisions, we in Britain can at last see better prospects ahead.

I would not wish to exaggerate - certainly not to be euphoric. But we have turned the corner. There is a new sense of economic confidence in Britain, even in the six months since you last visited us. Inflation is being reduced. Our currency is strong.

With the economic growth ahead, the British people will benefit from a real improvement in their living standards - and that extra purchasing power will benefit others as well, including your own producers, who will sell us more goods and services.

In that situation, if I may take this opportunity, Mr. Prime Minister, to remind you that you already have a large trading surplus with Britain, we would hope that you will buy a lot more goods from us too.

What matters is that all nations, and especially the major industrial nations and their leaders, should do everything in their power to expand the world's economy.

LARGEST DEMOCRACY

You, Mr. Prime Minister, lead the largest democracy in the world, Britain perhaps is the oldest. We are united in our resolve to preserve this precious way of life.

But unemployment and the related poverty on the scale now looming, unless counter-action is taken, threatens the very institutions, the principles which we know are fundamental to freedom and to progress. In fighting for growth in the world economies we are also fighting for our political way of life.

One final thing I can assure you, Mr. Prime Minister, and all the people of your nation to whom we feel so close. That is

that we shall have very much in mind, in all our international discussions in the months ahead, the implications of our decisions for the developing world.

If this visit to your country gives me new insights - as I know it will - into the impact on the daily life of an Indian villager or factory worker, of the decisions which are taken at the so-called financial capitals of the world, this alone will have made my time coming to you worthwhile.

I am confident that our visit will do this and more: it will strengthen and invigorate the natural friendship and closeness which history has bequeathed to our peoples and which we, their governments, have a duty to deepen and enhance.

I know that, Mr. Prime Minister, our discussions together will help us to achieve that goal.

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USA UNITED KINGDOM INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Jan 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

Prime Minister's Speech at Central Hall Function

The following is the text of the speech delivered by the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, at the meeting in honour of His Excellency the Rt. Hon'ble James Callaghan, M.P., Prime Minister of the United Kingdom in the Central Hall, Parliament House on January 9, 1978:

The setting to which I have the pleasure

of welcoming you this afternoon must be bringing to your mind the great institution thousands of miles away to which we who are wedded to parliamentary system of Government, turn for guidance in procedures, practices and precedents and in which you have been playing such a notable part not only in getting the best of the debates but also generally getting the better of the Opposition in voting strength. Of the many links which have survived the political separation between our two countries the parliamentary system is perhaps the most precious and also the most lasting.

PARLIAMENTARY STRUCTURE

It is one of the miracles of modern statesmanship that the parliamentary structure which had its roots in British system and which was evolved over the centuries in response to changing conditions and needs of your country has successfully flourished in other soils without much change from the original. So far as India is concerned we took to it as if it was our own. That was because we had developed over the centuries a tradition in the participation of elected representatives in our affairs through various hierarchically created institutions at the very base of our social system. Long before the City States of Greece and Rome appeared on the stage of world history we had our own democratic republics playing their effeetive role in the governance of the country. Even in our own joint families we generally resorted to the modes of negotiation, discussion and conciliation in keeping them together. At different periods in our history we had the departmental and Cabinet system of Government in operation.

Our professional guilds also presented the same picture. What was lacking in the old days, however, was equality, freedom of choice and an overall institution with which those below could be linked. A tier system is essentially a modern concept and the development in the 19th century of free democratic institutions in the western world influenced the evolution of democratic norms, traditions and institutions in the other parts of the world. Representative institutions in

the modern sense in our country are now more than a century old, but they were limited to legislative work and did not exercise the comprehensive powers that vest in Parliament these days. It was only at the time of independence that we achieved a parliamentary system in its full-fledged form and have been working it with, if I may say so, reasonable success ever since.

There was, however, a gap between legislative assemblies and real politics. This gap was bridged by Gandhiji who along with his colleagues developed a technique of political conversation and confrontation, negotiation and struggle within existing institutions whenever possible and outside them when necessary. The conversations were frank and cordial generally without a trace of bitterness and the confrontation had all the drama and manoeuvrings of an old fairy tale and like all good fairy tales it ended, as it should, happily.

MODIFICATIONS

We took over from you the parliamentary structure with some necessary modifications, mostly due to the fact that we are a multi-religious, multi-linguistic nation. In our case, Tennyson's dream of a Parliament of Man, a Federation of the World, became realised. Even in Britain, which is so much smaller in size and population than India, you are trying successfully to reconcile the conflicting poles of regionalism and subnationalism by devolution of authority. Even in a wider field of European Parliament the same process of reconciliation is in vogue and Britain will take its due share in its decision-making. Even though separated by thousands of miles we seem to be following a parallel course in the development of our parliamentary systems.

During the thirty years after the end of the British Empire in India, the Indian Parliament and State Legislatures remain at the heart of the political systems in our

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country. An attempt to bypass the Parliament, to take away authority from it and to make it subordinate to individual will was

made two years ago.

Happily for all of us, as you know, the eclipse even though nearly total was of short duration and the individuals who thought they could usurp authority while retaining the forms of democracy were dismissed most unceremoniously by the people of India in a massive turnout. Today in this country you will find parliamentary democracy functioning at all levels in the fullest freedom. It shares with the executive and with the legislature authority in decision-making. Recent experience has brought home to us the fact that these institutions and the freedoms which these institutions guarantee were much more fragile than we realised. We are doing everything possible to prevent the recurrence of such an event. We are doing it ever patiently and at our own steady pace. We are certainly not going to be stampeded by the very enemies of democracy into abandoning its very essence but are determind to preserve it in all its essential features.

BRITISH EXPERIENCE

Mr. Prime Minister, we have taken over from British experience not merely the parliament but also an independent judiciary and a non-political civil service and army. We feel that each one of these institutions is necessary to guarantee the permanence of democratic institutions and popular freedom in our country. During these years, we have continued to benefit by your own experiments in introducing into a rapidly changing technological world the concepts, ideals and compulsions of an humane polity. We hope to continue to do so in the future also. Parliamentary democracy, as other things, cannot remain static in a world of bewilderingly rapid change. The Commonwealth to which both of us belong and which, in a sense, is the result of an imaginative moment of creative statesmanship on the part of the leaders of our two countries, is yet another forum which will, I hope, try to keep the tradition of democratic discussion alive. For parliamentary democracy, to fulfil itself, should not be limited to a single state; it should lead to habits of tolerance, understanding and mutual adjustment between peoples and nations. In fact, as I stated in the Commonwealth Conference last June, it is through this evolution alone that we can realise the dream of one world which must be the endeavour of all who regard themselves as the children of Mother Earth.

I am confident that you are feeling at home among these members of the Indian Parliament. We can promise you everything exactly as it happens in London - everything except the heckling. It is a pity that you have come at a time when Parliament is not in session and you cannot get the flavour of our own parliamentary proceedings but despite that handicap I can assure you that we welcome you to these sacred precincts not only as a parliamentarian of great attainments but as one who has shed lustre on its proceedings and whose approach to Parliamentary business is one of true patriot, who can in the interests of his country rise above narrow parochialism and can rouse his own party and his own people into accepting sacrifice and unpalatable measures in the face of a crisis which threatens all. Mr. Prime Minister, it is in that sense of admiration for your achievements that we welcome you to this august environment.

USA INDIA GREECE ITALY UNITED KINGDOM

Date: Jan 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

Agreements for œ144 Million Aid Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on January 4, 1978 on British Grants to India:

Five agreements to the value of (pond)144 million (Rs. 228 crores) were signed in New

Delhi on January 4, by Mr. W. L. Allinson, the Acting British High Commissioner, and Dr. Manmohan Singh, Secretary, Department of Ecocnomic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. This is the largest amount Britain has ever signed over at a single ceremony of this kind in India.

The agreements comprise Rs. 110.8 crores (i 70.0 million) for maintenance aid, Rs. 47.5 crores ((pond) 30.0 million) for major projects, Rs. 31.7 crores ((pond) 20.0 million) each for the import of capital investment goods, and for the coal and power sectors, and Rs. 6.3 crores ((pond) 4.0 million) for debt refinancing. The entire assistance under

40 these agreements is in the form of grants.

The maintenance grant will be used for the import from Britain of maintenance goods, including raw materials, spares, components and commodities. The debt refinancing grant provides the Government of India with united free foreign exchange for servicing loan repayments. The remaining three capital grants are intended for the purchase of a wide variety of machine and equipment for existing and new productive capacity.

INDIA USA

Date: Jan 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Speech by Shri Morarji Desai at Meeting of Indian Parliamentary Group Held in Honour of President Carter

Speech by the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, at the meeting of the Indian Parliamentary Group held in honour of President Jimmy Carter in the Central Hall, Parliament House, New Delhi:

On behalf of the Indian Parliamentary Group, the organisation of the elected representatives of the Indian people, I am happy to welcome you in this Central Hall of our Parliament. We receive you not only is the Chief Executive of a great and friendly nation but because we see in you one who believes that politics and public policy must never be divorced from human values and morality. During the last 12 months you have impressed your personality on the world as a man of lofty idealism and fearless crusader. We, who have grown out of clay to be men under the humanising influence of Gandhiji can understand, possibly more than any other people, the continuing and pressing relevance of moral imperatives in the political life of a nation and that the ultimate test is how we serve, unto the last, the common man.

We live today in an awakened and enlightened world. What is more, it is a demanding world too. The community of nations must face together the paradox of our times. Some have gathered immense power and treasured vast opportunities while most others are faced with the spectre of war of destruction and millions suffer from want of even the basic necessities of life. As democratic nations in a world order we have to demonstrate that we seek not just to fulfil the aspirations of our own people but also that we are sensitive to the problems and interests of other peoples and share the hopes of the entire family of Man.

Mr. President, you come to this country when our people have unmistakably demonstrated that they are the true guardians of the democratic freedoms embodied in our Constitution as well as in yours. Through the ballot box the people have proved that they will not tolerate encroachment on their fundamental freedoms or abuses of their trust and confidence. My colleagues and I, in whose hands they have now placed the reins of power, have to redeem our pledges and fulfil their expectation.

DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS

The ease with which India has adopted the democratic tradition reflects the character of our ancient civilisation, its tradition of harmony and tolerance and the inner confidence which comes from the dedication to spiritual values. But, in framing our Constitution as in our struggle for freedom, we drew inspiration from diverse sources, notably from U.S. thinkers and statesmen. Gandhiji's ideas were influenced by Thoreau's thought. The fundamental rights embodied in our Constitution have the unmistakable stamp of Jefferson's emphasis on individual freedom and Lincoln's faith in representative and responsive government, I have no doubt

that the great leaders of our nation, who are no more and some whose portraits you see around this Hall, would have rejoiced on this occasion when in welcoming you, we can reaffirm our common faith and re-establish the trust which must exist between our two democracies.

Mr. President, differences may no doubt crop up from time to time between our countries as they do between two individuals. But I am confident that India and the United States will establish a healthy, relaxed and co-operative relationship. The great challenge before this world is to establish a new economic relationship between the industrialised nations with their technology and affluence, and the developing countries struggling against great odds to satisfy the needs of their own people. Though our circumstances are different, the goal of a stable and peaceful international system and a world free from tension is common between us. The world, which is striving for such a goal, expects countries like ours and yours to work together for a socially just world order, based on universal peace and common ideal.

It is in that hope and with great pleasure that I am welcoming you to this meeting of members of the Indian Parliament.

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Speech by Shri K. S. Hedge

Speech by Shri K. S. Hedge, Speaker of the Lok Sabha and President of the Indian Parliamentary Group, on January 2, 1978, at the meeting of Indian Parliamentary Group held in honour of President Jimmy Carter in the Central Hall, Parliament House, New Delhi:

Your Excellency Mr. President, Vice-President Shri Jatti, Prime Minister, Excellencies, Members of Parliament, and Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I rise to thank you, Mr. President, for your inspiring address vibrant with endearing friendliness and refreshing originality. We are indeed happy that you have been able to visit our country along with your charming wife.

India shares, Mr. President, your concern to shape a world responsive to human aspirations. India shares with the USA a firm commitment to the fundamental human liberties and the democratic form of government. The health and vitality of our democratic policy stands proven. The last parliamentary elections in India have dramatically proved the people's involvement in politics and their faith in democratic values as being the only sound basis for obtaining social justice.

Equality and equity are enshrined in our political system. The dignity of the individual and the sanctity of the human being are the underlying principles of the constitutional ethos of the Republic of India. India's concept of participative democracy

flows out of our ancient philosophy which looked upon each being as the embodiment of the same life force. Our concern with man reaches out beyond national borders.

ALLIANCE FOR SURVIVAL

As you rightly believe, "an alliance for survival is needed, transcending regions and ideologies - if we are to assure mankind a safe passage to the twenty-first century." The world is in ferment. Nations are worried today as much about their economic security as their political freedom. Democracy has the obligation to secure for the citizens not only peace but also freedom from want. A co-operative world order is therefore the vital need of the modern inter-dependent world which is dominated by demands for higher standards of human existence. We Indians feel that democratic nations particularly owe it to their commitment to equality and dignity of man to respond, in partnership with all nations, in collective action to the human need for peace and prosperity everywhere. Ours is a vision of a better India, in and for a better world.

Indo-American relations date back many, many years - in a sense, to the discovery of America itself. Capacity for assimilation has been the common characteristic of our national lives. Your visit, we are sure, will help greater mutual understanding and introduce new perspectives to relations between our two great democracies.

In concluding, let me say once again how happy we are, Mr. President, at your coming

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to our country and convey to you and to your distinguished and gracious wife Mrs. Rosalynn Carter - and through you to members of the Congress and the people of the USA - the greetings and feelings of goodwill and friendship of the members of the Indian Parliament and the millions of my fellow-countrymen they represent.

USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Jan 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

President Carter's Speech

President Jimmy Carter's address to the Indian Parliamentary Group on January 2, 1978, in the Central Hall of Parliament, New Delhi:

I stand before you in this House, the seat of one of the world's great legislatures, with feelings of profound friendship and respect. I bring with me the warm greetings and good wishes of the people of the second largest democracy on earth, the United States of America, to the people of the largest democracy, the Republic of India. Not long ago, both our people's governments passed through grave crises. In different ways, the values for which so many have lived and died were threatened. In different ways, and on opposite sides of the world, those values have been triumphant. It is sometimes argued that the modem industrial state - with its materialism, its centralized bureaucracies, and the technological instruments of control available to those who hold power - must inevitably lose sight of the democratic ideal.

The recent experience of my country put that argument to the test. And the result was a vindication of freedom and self-government, The opposite argument is made even more frequently. There are those who say that democracy is a kind of rich man's plaything - and that the poor are too preoccupied with survival to care about the luxury of freedom and the right to choose their government. This argument is repeated all over the world - mostly, I have noticed, by persons whose own bellies are full, and who speak from positions of privi-

lege and power in their own societies. Their argument reminds me of a statement made by a great President of the United States. Abraham Lincoln said, "Whenever I hear anyone arguing for slavery, I feel a strong impluse, to see it tried on him personally."

IMPORTANCE OF DEMOCRACY

The evidence, both in India and in America, is plain. It is that there is more than one form of hunger, and neither the rich or poor will feel satisfied without being fed in both body and in spirit. Is democracy important? Is human freedom valued by all people? India has given her affirmative answer in a thunderous voice - a voice heard around the world. Something momentous happened here last March - not because any particular party won or lost, but rather, I think, because the largest electorate on earth freely and wisely chose its leaders at the polls. In this sense, democracy itself was the victor. Together, we understand that in the realm of politics, freedom is the engine of progress.

India and America share practical experience with democracy. We in the United States are proud of having achieved political union among a people whose ancestors come from all over the world. Our system strives to respect the rights of a great variety of minorities - including, by the way, a growing and productive group of families from India. But the challenge of political union is even greater here. In the diversity of languages, religions, political opinions, and racial and cultural groups, India is comparable to the continent of Europe, which has a population about the same size as India's. Yet India has forged her vast mosaic of humanity into a single nation that has weathered many challenges to survival both as a nation and as a democracy. This is surely one of the greatest political achievements of this or any century.

India and the United States are at one in recognizing the right of free speech - which Mahatma Gandhi called "the foundationstone of Swaraj" or self-government - and the rights of academic freedom, trade

union organization, freedom of the press, and freedom of religion. All these rights are recognized in international covenants. There are few governments which do not at least pay lip service to them. And yet, to quote Gandhi once more, "No principle exists in the abstract. Without its concrete applica-

tion it has no meaning." In India, as in the United States, these rights have concrete application - and real meaning. It is to preserve these rights that both our nations have chosen similar political paths to the development, of our resources and the betterment of the life of our people.

There are differences between us in the degree to which economic growth is pursued through public enterprise, on the one hand, and private enterprise, on the other - but more important than these differences is our shared belief that the political structure in which development takes place should be democratic and should respect the human rights of each and every citizen. Our two countries also agree that human needs are inseparable from human rights - that while civil and political liberties are good in themselves, they are much more useful and much more meaningful in the lives of people to whom physical survival is not a matter of daily anxiety. To have sufficient food to live and work: to be adequately sheltered and clothed- to live in a healthy environment and be healed when sick; to learn and be tau-lit - these rights, too, must be the concerns of our governments. To meet these needs, orderly economic growth is crucial. And if the benefits of growth are to reach those whose need is greatest, social justice is crucial as well. India is succeeding in this historic task. Your economic challenges are no secret, and their seriousness is well understood in the West.

ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

What is far less well understood is the degree to which Indian social and economic policy has been a success. In the single generation since your independence was gained, extraordinary progress has been made. India

is now a major industrial power. Your economy ranks among the ten largest in the world. It is virtually self-sufficient in consumer goods and a wide variety of iron steel products.

There have been notable increases in production in nearly every important sector of industry - increases which reflect an economy of great technological sophistication. This kind of growth makes it doubly important to try to reduce trade barriers, and to promote both bilateral trade and mutual responsibility for the world trading system. Most important, though, are the advances in human welfare that have touched the lives of ordinary Indians.

Life expectancy has increased by twenty years since Independence. The threat of major epidemics has receded. The literacy rate has doubled. While only a third of Indian children went to school in the years just after Independence, nearly 90 per cent of primary-age Indian children now receive schooling. Nine times as many students go to universities as before. I mention these gains because we tend to overlook them in our preoccupation with the problems that quite properly engage most of our attention. India's difficulties, which we often experience ourselves, and which are typical of the problems faced in the developing world, remind us of the tasks that lie ahead. But India's successes are just its important -- because they decisively refute the theory that in order to achieve economic and social progress, a developing country must, accept an authoritarian or totalitarian government and all the damage to the health of the human spirit which that kind of rule brings with it. Nevertheless -- as Indians are the first to affirm - the challenges your country faces remain immense. All of us recognize that every country stands or falls by its own efforts.

MATURE PARTNERSHIP

We are eager to join with you in maintaining and improving our valuable and mature partnership of political and economic cooperation. It is a sobering fact that in a

nation of so many hundreds of millions of people, only a few American business leaders are involved on a daily basis in the economic and commercial life of this sub-continent. We need to identify more areas where we can work together for mutual benefit, and, indeed, the benefit of the whole world. In the area of development, I am deeply impressed with the creative direction the Government of India has charted in the new economic statement. You have committed your nation unequivocally to rural improvement and the creation of rural employment. This policy now faces the test of implementation, and especially the test of bringing its benefits to the poorest sections of your rural population. But the seriousness and determination of your commitment is cause for optimism.

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The new direction of your Government coincides with our own view that development priorities should emphasize meeting basic human needs. We want to learn from you and to work with you however we can. In agriculture there are also exciting new areas of technology on which we can work together. After a decade of importing grain, India now stands with a surplus of nearly 20 million tons. This is a tribute to the growing productivity of your agriculture and the competence of your administrative services. We applaud the grain reserve programme you have begun, and we would welcome the opportunity to share with you our resources and experience in dealing with the storage problems that surpluses bring with them. Our countries must be in the forefront of the effort to bring into existence the international food reserve that would mitigate the fear of famine in the rest of the world. At the same time, we must recognize that today's surpluses are likely to be a temporary phenomenon. The best estimates indicate that unless new productive capacity is developed, the whole world with its rapidly growing population may be facing large food shortages by the mid-1980s.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

The greatest opportunities to increase agricultural productivity exist here in India and elsewhere in the developing world. These opportunities must be seized - not just so that Indian can eat better, but so that India can remain self-sufficient, and perhaps even export food to countries with less agricultural potential. In the past, America and India have scored monumental achievements in working together in the agricultural field. But there is still a vast unrealised potential to be tapped through further cooperation. I would like to see an intensified agricultural research programme, aimed both at improving productivity in India and at developing processes that could be used elsewhere. This programme would be based in the agricultural universities of our two countries, but would extend across the whole frontier, of research. And beyond research, I would like to identify joint development projects where research can be tested and put to work.

Prime Minister Desai and I may now instruct our governments to focus on these matters and come up with specific proposals within the next few months. One of the most promising areas for international cooperation is in the regions of Eastern India and Bangladesh, where alternating periods of drought and flood cut cruelly into food production. Several hundred million people live in this area. They happen to be citizens of India, Bangladesh, and Nepal. But they are also citizens of the global community. And the global community has a stake in ensuring that their needs are met. Great progress has already been made in resolving water questions and we are prepared to give our support when the regional states request a study that will define how the international community. in cooperation with the nations of South Asia, can help the peoples of this area use water from the rivers and the mountains to achieve the productivity that is inherent in the land and the people. Sustained economic growth requires a strong base in energy as well as in agriculture. Energy is a serious problem in both our countries, for both of us import oil at levels that can threaten our economic health and expose us to danger if supplies are interrupted. American firms are

already working with Indians in developing the oil producing area off the shores near Bombay.

We also have a long record of cooperation in the development of nuclear power - another important element of India's energy plans. I hope that our work together will continue in this field as well. This is a cold technological subject, but Prime Minister Desai and I had warm and productive discussions about this field. We have notified him that shipments of nuclear fuel will be made for the Tarapur reactor. And because of an accident that did occur in your heavy water production plant, we will make available to India also supplies from our reserves of heavy water.

Additionally, we stand ready to work with you In developing renewable energy resources, especially solar energy. Active cooperation in this area could be of enormous help to both our countries. There is no shortage of sunlight in India, and the lack of a massive existing infrastructure tied to fossil fuel use will make the application of solar and solar-related energy vastly easier here than it will be in my country. Moreover, the inherently decentralized nature of solar energy makes it ideal as a complement to

45 your government's stress on developing self-reliant villages and communities.

DATA THROUGH SATELLITE

The silent void of space may seem remote from these challenges, but the intricate electronics of a space satellite can be as useful to earth-bound farmers as a new plow. The Indian and American governments will tomorrow exchange diplomatic notes confirming that the United States will programme its Landsat earth resources satellite to transmit data directly to a ground receiving station that India will own and operate. This satellite service will provide India with comprehensive topographic and minerals information and timely data on the everchanging condition of agricultural, water, and other natural resources. Under the

terms of the agreement, India will make available to neighbouring countries any information that affects them. Also India has already reserved space on board the American space shuttle in 1981 to initiate a domestic communications satellite system, using a satellite designed to Indian specifications.

We are pleased that our space technology, together with India's superb space communications capability, will serve the cause of practical progress in India. Our growing scientific cooperation should be anchored in expanded knowledge of each other's people and culture. Our scholarly exchanges have already enriched the lives of Americans who have participated in them, and I hope the same has been true of Indian participants. I want our exchanges of persons and information to flourish and grow. In matters of culture and the arts, we know how much we have to gain. Not only India but also the rest of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East have Much to offer us from which we might learn. I hope to expand the opportunities for our citizens to appreciate the strong and varied culture in the nations of your part of the world.

UNIQUE POSITION

In global politics, history has cast our countries in different roles. The United States is one of the two so-called superpowers; India is the largest of the non-aligned countries. But each of us respects the other's conception of its international responsibilities and the values we do share provide a basis for cooperation in attacking the great global problems of economic justice, human rights, and the prevention of war. This pursuit of justice and the building of a new economic order in the world must be undertaken in ways that promote constructive development rather than fruitless confrontation. Every country will suffer if the North-South dialogue is permitted to flounder. Because India is both a developing country and an industrial power, you are in a unique position to promote constructive international discussion about trade, energy, investment, balance of payments, technology, and other questions. I welcome your playing this role.

I know that there will be times we will disagree on specific issues and even on general approaches to larger problems. But I hope and believe that our shared interests and common devotion to democratic values will help us move toward agreement on important global and bilateral issues. But neither of us seeks to align with the other except in the pursuit of peace and justice. We can even help each other to alleviate differences which might exist with other nations. Our two countries are part of a democratic world that includes nations at all stages of development, from Sweden and Japan to Sri Lanka and Costa Rica. We share many common problems. We also share an obligation to advance human rights - not by interfering in the affairs of other nations, not by trying to deny other nations the right to choose their own political or social system, but by speaking the truth as we see it and by providing an admirable example of what democracy can mean and what it can accomplish.

The danger of war threatens everyone, and the United States is trying to help reduce that danger - in the SALT negotiations with the Soviet Union, in talks aimed at a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty, in our own policy of restraint on conventional arms transfers. We are also working hard to restrict the proliferation of nuclear explosives. We are seeking to help the process of peace in Africa and the Middle East. And we are taking steps to forestall great power rivalry in the Indian ocean. India is pledged to peaceful cooperation with your neighbours, and India is an important part of almost any United Nations peacekeeping force, is a present and frequent member of the Security Council, and has been in the forefront of campaigns against colonialism and apartheid. More and more, we find ourselves working togehter toward our common goals: demo-

46 cracy, human development, social justice, and peace.

The motto of my country is "In God We Trust." India's is Satyameva Jayate -

"Truth Alone Prevails." I believe that such is the commonality of our fundamental values that your motto could be ours and perhaps ours could be yours. Our nations share the common goals of peace in the world and human development in our own societies. And we share as well the conviction that the means we employ to reach these goals must be as much in keeping with the principles of freedom, human dignity, and social justice as are the goals themselves. This affinity of belief is as strong a tie as there can be between two nations. The values that Indians and Americans share have deeply affected my own life. I come to you as a national leader, in the hope that my visit will mark a new and higher stage in the steadily improving relations between our two countries. But in a more personal sense - a sense that is very close to my heart - I come as a pilgrim. This morning I had the honour of laving a wreath on the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi. In that sacred place, so simple and serene, I recalled anew the ways in which Gandhi's teachings have touched the lives of so many millions of people in my country.

MAHATMA GANDHI AND MARTIN LUTHER KING

When I was growing up on a farm in the state of Georgia, in the heart of the southern United States, an invisible wall of racial segregation stood between me and my black playmates as soon as we were old enough to go to school. It seemed then as if that wall would exist forever. But it did not stand forever. It crumbled and fell, and though the rubble has not yet been completely removed, it no longer separates us one from another, blighting the lives of those on both sides of it. Among the many who marched and suffered and bore witness against the evil of racial prejudice, the greatest was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a son of Georgia and a spiritual son of Mahatma Gandhi. The most important influence in the life and work of Dr. King, apart from his own religious faith, was the life and work of Gandhi. Martin Luther King took Gandhi's concepts of Ahimsa and Satyagraha - non-violence and truth-force - and put them to work in the American South.

Like Gandhi, King believed that truth and love are the strongest forces in the universe. Like Gandhi, he knew that ordinary people armed only with courage and faith, could overcome injustice by appealing to the spark of good in the heart of the evil-doer. Like Gandhi, we all learned that a system of oppression damages those at the top of it as surely as it does those at the bottom. And for Martin Luther King, as for Mahatma Gandhi, non-violence was not only a political method, it was a way of life and a spiritual path to union with the ultimate. These men set a standard of courage and idealism that few of us can meet, but from which all of us can draw inspiration and sustenance.

The non-violent movement for racial justice in the United States - a movement inspired in large measure by the teachings and example of Gandhi and other Indian leaders - changed and enriched my own life and the lives of many millions of my countrymen. I am sure you will forgive me for speaking about it at some length. I do so because I want you all to understand that when I speak of friendship between the United States and India, I speak from the heart as well as the head. I speak from a deep, firsthand knowledge of what the relationship between our two countries has meant in the past and what it can mean in the future. For the reminder of this century and into the next, the democratic countries of the world will increasingly turn to each other for answers to our most pressing common challenge: How our political and spiritual values can provide the basis for dealing with the social and economic strains to which they will unquestionably be subjected.

The experience of democracy is like the experience of life itself - always changing, infinite in its variety, sometimes turbulent, and all the more valuable for having been tested by adversity. We share that experience with you and draw strength from it. Whatever the differences between my country and yours, we are moving along the path of democracy toward a common goal of human development. I know I speak for all Americans when I say that I am grateful that we travel that road together.

USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA BANGLADESH NEPAL SWEDEN COSTA!!JAPAN SRI LANKA GEORGIA

Date: Jan 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Speech by President of India at Banquet in Honour of President Jimmy Carter

Speech by the President of India., shri N. Sanjiva Reddy, at the banquet in honour of His Excellency Mr. Jimmy Carter, President of the United States of America and Mrs. Carter, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi on January 2, 1978:

Mr. President, Mrs. Carter, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are happy to have you with us this evening. My people associate America as a land of Liberty and they look upon you, Mr. President, as a leader who has sought to restore the relevance of moral and spiritual values.

The year just ended will long be remembered in the annals of our two nations. The people of the United States of America elected you to the White House to heal the wounds of a decade of conflicts and divisions. In India, our General Elections gave proof that in a democracy the will of the people is the ultimate arbiter of power.

Your visit provides the opportunity to establish closer personal contacts between the newly-elected and like-minded leaders of our two countries and to strengthen the deep affinities between us. I welcome you on behalf of my people and my Government.

Notwithstanding the ideals which we share, we have varied emphasis in our priorities and in our international preoccupations. Paradoxically, the very adherence to similar political systems has at times exaggerated our misunderstandings and blurred our affinities.

CO-EXISTENCE

The world situation, as it appears, has materially changed. Many new countries have attained independent nationhood. "Detente", co-existence and even cooperation between countries with different political and social systems have come to be recognised as having an inexorable logic for our interdependent planet. Ideologies are in the process of being domesticated and pluralism amongst nations is seen as a factor of stability rather than a threat to international peace. The prospect of nuclear war has given a new meaning to the search for peace on earth. Non-alignment is much less misunderstood. If there is a bipolarity today, it is between forces seeking stability and cooperation and those which seek to obstruct orderly and progressive solutions to world problems. The growing chasm between the developing and developed world may in the future lead to increasing dangerous tensions. The world of the rich and the poor face a common doom if we cannot act together to protect the Earth, the Air and the Waters from plunder and pollution. What we have admired in the short period of your presidency is your sensitivity not just to the problems of your own country, but to the dark shadows on peace and international stability. You have made the international community aware of the rights of individuals, be they at home,, or in other distant lands, and the responsibilities, we have to uphold the common man's inherent demand for liberty, equality and justice.

Mr. President, the world today commands the resources, the technology and also, I believe, the wisdom to fashion a stabler and just international order. The time has come for the United States and India, along with like-minded countries to work together so

that over-riding narrow national interests may be persuaded to see the wisdom of making necessary adjustments and sacrifices to help establish a new international economic order. The dangerous imbalances which exist must be corrected, the spectre of poverty removed and the creeping despondency in cooperative solutions banished.

Mr. President, we recognise that the role we, in India, can play in the resolution of international problems can only come from dynamic economic growth and the establishment of an equitable society in our own land. Our people have demonstrated the capacity to learn and to innovate, but to fulfil their modest expectations is, in itself, a gigantic task. Our achievements, however, give us courage and confidence.

We have laid the foundations for our progress on a wide front covering principally agriculture, industry and, more important, the indigenisation of scientific and technological know-how. Our economy has been relieved of the endemic anxieties arising from the paucity of food production and difficulties in balance of payments. We are in the pro-

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cess of reviewing our priorities so that a greater share of the benefits of planned socio-economic development reach the economically weaker sections of society. We have recognised the dangers from uncontrolled urbanisation and are determined to make our villages economically resilient.

DEMOCRATIC METHODS

Social and economic transformation through democratic methods may at times appear slow. Certainly, in a democratic set up, failure attracts more attention, both at home and abroad, than progress actually made towards social and economic goals. We seek neither to minimise our tasks nor conceal our failures. We are fully convinced that, in the end, a democracy gathers vigour from open dissent, and a consensus makes for firmer foundations. What we ask of the international community, and that too, as a supplement to our own national efforts, is

constructive cooperation or at least, a benign understanding of our endeavours.

On the wider canvas, my government remains faithful to the fundamental principles of our foreign policy. The remnants of colonialism and racialism, where they still exist, must go. Racialism, which certainly persists in Africa, in defiance of international opinion, must give way to governments representative of the majority. We believe, this is no time for increasing but rather arresting and eliminating great power deployment in the hitherto tension-free areas such as the Indian Ocean. We welcome the negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on the limitations of strategic weapons and efforts to consolidate detente. Faithful to the spirit of the United Nations Charter, India will always be on the side of the peaceful resolution of international disputes. We are determined to be true to the friendships which have served our national interests. We are equally convinced that in keeping with contemporary realities, we can widen and intensify our relations, to mutual advantage, with many countries.

NUCLEAR SCIENCE

In the final instance, peace will remain fragile if nuclear weapons, capable of such annihilative destruction are kept and multiplied. We appreciate the concern and sincerity which you have expressed at these dangers and the efforts you are making to arrest the proliferation of nuclear weapons. For our part, we have unilaterally abjured the development of such means of mass destruction. But, Mr. President, we hope that you will agree that the dangers of nuclear war, by accident or design, will remain until such time as all nations, without arbitrary distinctions, join in a firm commitment for the progressive reduction and eventual elimination of nuclear waepons, from all parts of the world. The challenge demands not just restraints from non-nuclear powers, but pledges by the nuclear "haves", to turn away from the use of this instrument of modern science for military purposes. But, in the meanwhile, must countries who have no nuclear weapons be inhibited from using nuclear science as an instrument for economic transformation? I would like to emphasise with a full sense of responsibility that India, for her part, will not indulge in the perverse use of nuclear science.

Mr. President, our bilateral cooperation has been rich in range and content. My Government acknowledges the debt gratitude we owe to the United States, which has provided as generous aid when we were in need. Your assistance has been an important factor in our development, and in the progress towards the diversification of our economy. Of all the many-sided links between us, I would particularly like to recall that students and technologists trained in American institutions have, on return, grafted their acquired knowledge and skills to our national development. Multifaceted and beneficial as has been our bilateral relationship, the range and sophistication has a wide scope for further development. It is for these reasons that we believe that the Indo-US Joint Commission and its three Sub-commissions merit fuller encouragement and support.

BONDS OF KINSHIP

The real cement to our relations goes beyond politics, economics and technology. It is in the values and emotional involvement of our people. Both for Americans and Indians, man's communion with God, tolerance and compassion towards his fellow beings, are respected as the highest virtues. The present revulsion from the tensions of modern life and its unending search for material comforts has, we notice, led to a new burst of interest in our spiritual and philosophic heritage. On another plane, many volunteers, like your esteemed mother, have built bonds of kindship between individuals

and families across the oceans. This deep commitment to the things of the mind and the spirit, the sustained exchanges in the field of art, education and culture, along with personal relationships, make for strong but invisible bonds which are only possible bet-

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ween open societies.

Mr. President, the rich texture of our relationship should make it immune to misunderstanding and distrust in the future. The quality of our friendship is such that no nation, which cherishes international peace and cooperation, need fear its potential or suspect it of malevolence.

With shared faith and complementary objectives, Mr. President, the word could go forth from this ancient capital that the friendship between our two large democracies, one rich and powerful and the other under-developed but resurgent, is to serve the hopes and aspirations of all mankind, and that our objectives are not only relevant now but will remain valid through time. Our vision must be of a world which would safeguard nations in their diversity and there man may achieve social justice, dignity and fulfilment.

It is with a sense of the historic significance of the occasion that I ask you, Ladies and Gentlemen, to raise your glasses to the health of the President of the United States of America and Mrs. Carter, to the high ideals and enlightened interests which bind India and the United States.

USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA MALDIVES

Date: Jan 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Reply by President Carter

Speech by President Jimmy Carter at the banquet hosted in his honour at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi on January 2, 1978: President Reddy and Prime Minister Desai, great leaders of the Government of India, beautiful women and friends who have made our visit here so enjoyable and productive,

This afternoon in your Parliament I spelled out in quite a lengthy speech the details about relationships which we have as a mutual interest. So this evening in my brief remarks I would like to comment in a more personal way.

Today was fulfilled in my life a long ambition to visit the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi. As I stood there I thought about India and about my own country and about the personal feelings that all of us share as we come to an ancient land which in recent years, with the birth of your hopes and dreams for freedom, has been an inspiration to us all.

This morning your Prime Minister gave me a book that he had written analyzing the Bhagavadgita, one passage from that great book stood out in my mind.

I can't quote it exactly, Mr. Prime Minister, and I can't interpret it well, but it said when a country is flooded, the reservoirs become superfluous. Shri Krishna went on to explain what he meant in this message, that one's heart is filled completely with an awareness of or love for God, the other considerations in life are incidental.

And one need not worry about the outcome of an action, but should worry on a momentary basis about the purposes and the attitudes and one's relation to the eternal.

There is no way to describe in overall terms my feeling about India. So I will have to describe my thoughts in specifies.

My first impression on leaving Air Force One, my plane, was the extreme friendship exhibited to me by the leaders who are assembled at this table. It was a remarkable expression of deference and respect on your part for the country I represent. When all your Ministers, many of the members of your Parliament and the Diplomatic Corps came to meet us and the beautiful words that you expressed, Mr. President, to me then, will always be cherished in my heart.

WARM FRIENDSHIP

On the drive into the city from the airport, the overwhelming welcome that I received from the hundreds of thousands of Indian citizens assembled on the side of the road was indeed a remarkable experience for me. There was a genuine expression of happiness and good will and friendship on their

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faces and their raised hands and smiles made me feet, indeed, that I was welcome.

I also had a sense of belonging. didn't feet that I was in An alien land. I think the reason for this is that my family has grown to respect and to love India in the last 10 years. When my mother was 68 years old she became a member of the Peace Corps and requested that she be sent to India. She is a registered nurse and she worked in a small clinic in a village of Vikhroli just north of Bombay. One of the reasons that she requested India - perhaps the most important reason - was her awareness of what your nation represents as expressed by the commitment and the courage and the humility of Mahatma Gandhi.

So our family, although this is my first visit, has felt a part of your life. When your former great President Ahmed died. I had just become President of our country. And my mother and my son, who has the same name as I. came to represent the United States during that sorrowful time. So I felt a sense of belonging this afternoon.

In the presence of the members of your Parliament, the welcome that I received there, the attention that was given to my words, a sense of political ties was very strong. Again, I felt that I was in a place which shared commitments and not in a strange place where the form of government was unknown to me, a sense of democracy. A sense that everyone in that assembly hall

indeed represented the people of India was something very similar to a person who has served in the Government in our own country as well.

I had a thought this morning, too, about the beauty of India, as I stood at the Memorial to Gandhi. This is a lovely time of year. And the flowers are bursting forth. I walked for an hour or so this afternoon in the Mughal Garden outside this palace, and was impressed by the quietness and a sense of peace and even in your busy streets and alongside the highways there is a sense of inward beauty among the people, a sense of inward peace in their hearts and also outward beauty in your buildings, in your trees and in your flowers.

I also felt a common purpose with you in the principles which we all represent, Freedom of speech, a free press, a right to criticize, a right to disagree, open debate, issues thoroughly discussed, changes welcomed, even in a nation Which is ancient in its customs and in its traditions.

COMMON AIMS

We share a common measurement of greatness, not power or pomp or ceremony or uniforms or outward show of greatness, but we recognize the greatness is present when the least of those in our nations are treated well and cared for when their afflictions are eased and When they have food and education and a healthy life.

I also, Mr. President, shared your words a few moments ago in a hunger for peace, not only in individuals, but as a nation and leaders in the world.

India sets a moral standard for many of us to emulate. And the judgment that is spoken by the leaders of your country makes a great impact on those of us who sometimes have been criticized.

We think twice before we incur the disapproval of India and your leaders because we realize that your standards of morality and justice are very deeply felt.

You have an ability to bridge the gap between those who have a developed society and you understand in personal terms the hungers and the needs and the yearnings and the unmet aspirations of those who live in nations which are still developing.

MUTUAL TRUST

The last thing I would like to say is that there has been somewhat of a circle of influence between our country and yours, I am very proud of my nation, although most of my words have been in praise of your own. I have read some of the works of Mahatma Gandhi. And I know that he was greatly impressed by our poet, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and by a man who loved God's world, Henry David Thoreau. I brought your Prime Minister a gift of the collected works of Thoreau because of Gandhi's respect for him.

And when Gandhi learned even more and gave his life in the cause for which he stood, many of our own people learned from him and were inspired by him.

This afternoon, I just mentioned one of our leaders, Martin Luther King, Jr., who studied the works of Gandhi and adopted non-violence and the force of truth as the

essence of his own beliefs. And although he never carried a weapon and never struck another human being, but turned his face when he was beaten and suffered many times in jails, he remembered the teachings of Gandhi.

So from our country to you, and from you back to our country there is a circle of learning, a circle of mutual trust, a circle of friendship, a circle of respect, and also a circle of shared responsibilities and shared commitments.

The quality of our life is not yet what we would hope. We have many things to learn. We have many grievances to redress. We have many degrees of freedom still left to enhance. We are far short of our dream of peace. But in a democratic society like our own, when the yearnings of every person

can make an impact upon the decisions of the leaders, there is always a sure sense that progress will be ever upward.

I would like to propose a toast on behalf of my own nation and the American citizens who are here tonight, Mr. President: To President Reddy, to Mrs. Reddy, to the distinguished leaders of India, to the great people of India, and to peace throughout the world.

USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA

Date: Jan 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Indo-U.S. Joint Declaration

The following is the text of the Joint Declaration signed in New Delhi by Shri Morarji Desai, Prime Minister of India, and H.E. Mr. Jimmy Carter, President of the United States of America, on January 3, 1978:

India and the United States of America, despite difference of history and culture, are one in the recognition that the ultimate sanction of power and of public policy rests in the respect for the dignity and well-being of the individual. Regardless of race, sex, religion or social status, every human being is entitled to life and liberty, to freedom from want and, without threat or coercion, to freedom of expression and worship.

We share an unwavering faith in the democratic form of government, which guarantees to all citizens fundamental freedoms under law and the right to choose their representatives and determine their own future.

At the same time, we believe that a cooperative and stable world order depends on the right of each people to determine its own form of government and each nation its own political, social and economic policies.

We are gratified that the press of deco-Ionization has democratized the international state-system, giving most nations for the first time an opportunity to participate in making decisions relating to international peace and cooperation.

The disparities in economic strength that exist among nations must be bridged and a more equitable international economic order fashioned if we are to secure international peace.

We recognize that broad economic development is essential for a modern state, but also that such progress is hollow if its benefits do not reach all the people.

The present-day world commands scientific and technological skills to enrich the quality of life and give greater social justice within and among nations. We call on an inter-dependent community of nations to work together to protect and nurture the common-heritage of our planet's resources and environment.

We declare that war is not an acceptable means to settle political disputes. Our countries will do their utmost to resolve disputes with others amicably and, within the framework of the United Nations, to help in resolving the disputes of others.

The spectre of war has hung over the world for too long. Existing stockpiles of nuclear weapons must be reduced and eventually eliminated, and the danger of proliferation of nuclear weapons must be arrested. Further, every effort must be made progressively to reduce conventional arms and to redirect the productive forces so released to the betterment of mankind. We commit ourselves to work towards these ends.

Beyond the realms of politics and eco-

nomics, the world today affords opportunities

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for freer and fuller intellectual and scientific exchanges. Freedom of ideas and the promotion of cultural and artistic interplay, in a world where the mind is without fear, can create an environment where tolerance and understanding can flourish.

Beyond the traditional ideas of statecraft, Indians and Americans recognize an obligations to themselves and to others that ends can never justify evil means. Nations, like individuals, are morally responsible for their actions.

USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Jan 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Indo-U.S. Joint Commission

Speaking at the third meeting of the India - United States Joint Commission in New Delhi on January 3, 1978, the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Valpayee said:

Mr. Secretary, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you and the members of your delegation to this third meeting of the Indo-US Joint Commission. This meeting, though delayed, coincides happily with the welcome visit of President Carter to our capital and our country. We have every reason to believe that this occasion will mark a significant improvement in the relations between our two countries. On the basis of shared ideals and complementary purposes, our countries are poised for better understanding

and intensified bilateral cooperation, as well as for harmonising our efforts in the resolution of major international problems.

As has been reaffirmed by the two Presidents and our Prime Minister, the relations between our two countries are vast in range and content. With progress in diverse fields of our own economic and technical capability, the character of relations between our two countries is, naturally, in the process of change. Financial aid and supply of foodgrains are no longer central to our economic relationship. The areas of cooperation that now need to be developed would cover wider industrial collaboration and higher levels of technological exchange. The Sub-Commissions have identified the fields where such cooperation can grow. In self-confident open societies, social scientists and academics can cross-fertilize their ideas and pool their knowledge. In reviewing the work of the Sub-Commissions, Mr. Secretary, I feel we should give support to improving the multifaceted cooperation between India and the United States.

BILATERAL OCCASION

Though this is a purely bilateral occasion, it may not be inappropriate, particularly in view of our shared international purposes, to dwell a while on the major international economic problems that face the community of nations. I recall with satisfaction our first meeting in Paris, when we both attended the Ministerial-level Conference of International Economic Cooperation. The results of the Paris dialogue fell short of our expectations, though some progress was undoubtedly made in such important areas as the ODA, in which the developed countries committed themselves to significant progressive increase. We readily acknowledged this and played our part, in the final phase, in preventing the breakdown of talks at the Conference.

But the dimensions of the problem underlying the North-South dialogue are serious and urgent. If we want understanding and cooperation rather than confrontation, we will have to make more rigorous advances on the various issues that must be tackled for building a new International Economic Order. The economies of the nations of the world, developed as well as the developing, are not yet fully stabilised, following the energy crisis. The burden of indebtedness on oil-importing developing countries continues to mount alarmingly and the processes of development of poor countries have slowed to the point of near stagnation.

PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

We recognise the problems of developed countries, where unemployment in sensitive sectors has grown. The dislocation of the international monetary system is all too obvious. We are, however, seriously concerned at the tendency to revert to protectionism, which will have grave consequences for the aspirations of developing countries for a free international commerce, especially of the products of their infant industries. One cannot but also recognise the need to stabilise commodity prices through a Common Fund.

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Doubtless, it is difficult to balance national responsibilities with the logic of international interdependence. But would this not be the time to bring to bear a more imaginative approach to these questions? Should not the developed world with its established higher standards of living consider significant transfers - in investment, official assistance and technology? Is it not politically and economically a realistic proposition to stimulate the purchasing power of two-thirds of mankind? This would not only provide the necessary thrust to the economies of poor countries, but also open opportunities for the products and technology of advanced nations, without any frustrating effect on their economies.

Frankly, the logic of interdependence points to no alternative but adjusting national interest to international imperatives. The world problem, looked together and within the notions of a cooperative system, is a challenge and an opportunity, to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor. This would be in the spirit enjoined by the agreed

objectives of peace, social justice and equal opportunties for all in the world.

India's own approach is sensitive to these problems and throughout constructive. We have welcomed the appointment of the Brandt Commission of independent experts who would have a fresh look at the world economic problems. The eminance of the personalities in the Commission should ensure that its perspective rises above limited national concern. The Commission, we hope, will come out with fresh ideas on world economic strategies. It could persuade domestic opinion, in the more fortunate countries to recognise that interdependence between the rich and the poor is a palpable reality and that, a little sacrifice would serve the larger international interests of peace and stability.

Before concluding, I deem it appropriate to congratulate the members of the three Sub-Commissions - on economic and commercial affairs, science and technology and education and culture for their dedicated efforts in making new advances towards bilateral cooperation, in a spirit consistent with a cooperative world order. I would also like to acknowledge the useful work being done by the Joint Business Council and the Agricultural Working Group, who are addressing themselves to harmonising the development of our trade and our specialised technical cooperation.

Mr. Secretary, may I now invite you. as the Co-Chairman of the Commission, to share your thoughts with us? Thereafter, the leaders of the Indian side of the three Sub-Commissions, on behalf of their counterparts, could be invited to read out the agreed reports summarising the activities and progress of the respective Sub-Commissions.

MEET ENDORSES REPORTS OF THREE SUB-COMMISSIONS

Reports of the three Sub-commissions - Economic and Commercial, Education and Culture, Science and Technology - all of which had met previously in 1976 and 1977,

were read and endorsed by the Joint Commission.

ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL

The Joint Commission welcomed the initiatives being taken in the Economic and Commercial Subcommission and the Joint Business Council in removing problems in bilateral trade and in supporting commercial cooperation between Indian and U.S. companies in third countries. The Joint Commission welcomed the expansion of joint activities under the Agricultural Inputs Working Group and proposed a change in its name to Agricultural Inputs and Associated Technology Group, with a broad mandate to maintain a dialogue and initiate joint discussions and research projects in the field of agricultural inputs, marketing and processing. The Joint Commission welcomed the proposal to form another group - Industrial Working Group - to undertake joint discussions and research in the field of industry including small scale industry technology, appropriate technology, and government sponsored industrial high technology.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

The Joint Commission supported the objective of the Sub-commission to increase the number of fellowships from ten to fifteen and to initiate a visitorship programme; to hold two seminars in 1978; to open an exhibition in India in 1978 and one in the U.S in 1979; and to exchange films and TV documentaries during the coming year. In addition, both

governments will strive to support and expand Sub-commission activities.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Joint Commission supported an expansion of cooperative research in new fields of wildlife and habitat, solar ativity related to weather phenomona, oceanography, earth sciences, and small industrial technologies. The two governments noted the progress in bilateral cooperative research, recommended meetings of experts to develop projects in

additional fields and urged streamlining of procedures for government approval of proposed research,

The two co-Chairmen agreed that the work of the Joint Commission and its Sub-commissions have been beneficial in increasing the area of understanding and facilitating progress on a wide range of specific issues in the bilateral relationship. It was the intent of both governments to continue to expand the scope of the Commission through annual meetings as well as through individual exchanges under its sponsorship.

LANDSAT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNED

The Secretary of State of the United States Mr. Cyrus R. Vance and the Minister of External Affairs of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, signed in New Delhi on January 3, 1978 a Memorandum of Understanding which will result in India receiving Landsat remote sensing data direct from the Landsat. This should give India an important additional tool for development.

The Landsat will provide information which will be useful in estimating crops and yields, range land management, forest and water resources, mineral and oil exploration, geologic survey and mineral resource management, map making, land use planning, health and environmental protection, in monitoring marine resources, in disaster warning and relief, as well as in planning of large river basins and of the deserts.

USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC FRANCE

Date: Jan 01, 1978

Volume No

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on January 17, 1978, on indo-U.S. Collaboration in wildlife conservation:

Proposal to explore suitable areas for U.S. collaboration in wildlife conservation were discussed in New Delhi on January 17, at a meeting between the wildlife experts from U.S.A. and India.

Environmental education, research and training in wildlife management, status survey and ecological studies of endangered species of flora and fauna were some of the possible areas identified for assistance. Technical expertise in setting up a marine national park in the Gulf of Mannar, Kutch, establishing a hydro-biological research stations in Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary and Chilka lake, Orissa, were also considered.

Other areas of collaboration proposed include scientific management of national parks and sanctuaries, use of telemetery techniques to identify home ranges of wildlife, ecological aspect of the use of insecticides and pesticides and translocation of wildlife. Another important aspect considered was exchange of technical know-how for formulating a national wildlife conservation policy,

The five member U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service & National park Service Team is led by Dr. Gerard A. Bertrand Chief, International Affairs Staff. Other members includes Dr. Howard Campbell, Chief, Gainesville Research Station, National Fish and Wildlife Service Laboratory; Mr. Philip C. Agee, Wildlife Research Specialist, Branch of Federal Aid; Mr. Robert C. Miline, Chief, Division of International Park Affairs and Mr. Boyd Evison, Superintendent, Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The Indian side was headed by Shri B. P. Srivastava, Inspector General of Forests of Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigations.

Others who participated in the discussions include representatives from the World Wildlife Fund (India), Bombay Natural History Society, University Grants Commission, Zoological Survey of India, Botanical Survey of India, Department of Science and Technology, Conservationists from various States and other wildlife lovers also attended the meeting.

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USA INDIA LATVIA

Date: Jan 01, 1978

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

U.S. Congressional Delegation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on January 18, 1978 when a US Congressional Delegation called on Union Labour Minister:

An 11-member US Congressional Delegation of the House of Representatives and some officials led by Congressman Lester L. Wolff called on Shri Ravindra Varma, Minister for Labour and Parliamentary Affairs, in New Delhi on January 18.

They discussed matters of common interest relating to functioning of the Parliament system, generation of employment, and employer-employee relations.

Shri Varma explained to them the functioning of both the Houses of Parliament and methods of transacting business.

Outlining in very broad terms, the policy of the Government relating to em-

ployment, Shri Varma stated that it had accorded high priority to the problems of unemployment and underemployment in the rural areas. It would reorient planning and make it employment oriented. The Government's endeavour would be to provide increasing opportunities for employment and subsidiary employment in rural areas through decentralised industrial production, using appropriate technology.

The Minister pointed out that while advance technology had its place, the country had to adopt appropriate technology which was compatible with conditions in the country. Any programme of industrial development in our country had to give due weight to available quantum of resources, the investment, employment ratio and the need to avoid concentration of power.

The delegation arrived in New Delhi on the evening of January 17 at the invitation of the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

USA INDIA

Date: Jan 01, 1978

Volume No

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Joint Statement on Trade Consultations between India and United States

The following is the text of the joint statement on trade consultations between India and the United States of America issued in New Delhi on January 31, 1978:

As part of the implementation of the Delhi Declaration signed on January 3, 1978, by India's Prime Minister, Morarji Desai and U.S. President Jimmy Carter, consultations were held in Delhi on January 30-31, 1978, between officials of Governments of India and the United States. The Indian delegation was led by Additional Secretary Shri P. K. Kaul of the Ministry of Commerce. The United States delegation was led by President Carter's Deputy Special Trade Representative, Ambassador Alan William Wolff. Mr. Wolff also called on Shri Mohan Dharia, Minister of Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation.

The consultations were built upon discussions in August, 1977, in Washington between Minister of Commerce Shri Mohan Dharia and the President's Special Trade Representative Robert S. Strauss. The issues raised concerned the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN) in Geneva and bilateral trade matters.

The Indian delegation, in particular, expressed concern about the United States countervailing duty cases relating to textiles, anti-dumping case relating to steel wire strands, the import relief case regarding industrial fasteners, and the trigger price mechanism for steel products. In this connection, the Indian delegation requested favourable and appropriate action on the basis of information supplied by the Government of India. The United States delegation expressed concern about a number of aspects of the Government of India import policies and measures.

PROTECTIONISM

Both delegations agreed that the increasing world-wide threat of protectionism made imperative the early successful conclusion of the MTN and that this should be accomplished by July, 1978. They also agreed that

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the negotiation could not be considered successful without addressing the issues of concern to all participants, both developing and developed countries, in accordance with the provisions of the Tokyo Declaration, which specifically includes as an objective securing additional benefits for the international trade of developing countries. In particular, both sides stressed the need for continued global trade liberalization and improvements in the international trading framework that would provide for the full participation of developing countries in the international trading system. In implementing the goals of the Tokyo Declaration, they recognised the importance of reaching early international agreement on subsidies and offsetting measures safeguards and improvements in the international trading framework, consistent with the broader objectives of the MTN.

The delegation noted that the MTN was beginning its final, crucial negotiating stage, and expressed the conviction that all participants should strive actively in a cooperative effort to maximize the benefits that could be achieved. The next few months could provide a unique opportunity to influence the trading system for the coming decades.

TRADE LIBERALISATION

In the context of these discussions, the Indian delegation cited the report submitted to the Government of India for its consideration proposing changes in its external trading system which could result in major trade liberalization designed to achieve the objectives of growth, employment creation and social justice. The proposals could also result in greater reliance on the tariff mechanism in comparison to import licensing for import allocation. They could also foster imports of high technology goods and other essential industrial inputs for production purposes.

The United States delegation welcomed the proposals as described and felt that if adopted they would provide a meaningful contribution to trade liberalisation.

The United States delegation took note of the autonomous measures introduced by Government of India in the past two years and requested that the Government of India take further trade liberalising measures in its import policy for 1978-79. In this connection the United States Delegation made

reference to the lists given to Government of India of products and measures of specific interest to the United States.

ALMOND IMPORTS

The United States delegation expressed appreciation for the Indian Government's recent action liberalizing almond imports and requested that the Government of India give early favourable consideration to additional administrative measures to facilitate the further development of this trade.

As a result of their discussions both delegations anticipated rapid progress toward early and successful conclusion of the tropical products phase of the negotiations.

Both delegations agreed to continued bilateral discussions in Geneva to reach early agreement on product-related elements of trade liberalization as well as general codes of conduct.

They placed particular emphasis on mutual consultations in Geneva on improvement of the international trading framework, strengthening the institutional aspects of the GATT, and in particular its dispute settlement mechanism.

USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SWITZERLAND JAPAN FRANCE

Date: Jan 01, 1978

Volume No

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YUGOSLAVIA

Shri Jatti's Speech at Banquet in Honour of Yugoslav Vice-President

The Vice-President Shri B. D. Jatti held a banquet in honour of His Excellency Mr. Stevan Doronjski, Vice-President of the Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in New Delhi on January 31, 1978. Proposing the toast, Shri Jatti said:

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to welcome

you and the members of your delegation to India. The warm and cordial relations between India and Yugoslavia have been developed by a happy tradition of exchange of visits by the statesmen of the two countries and your present visit will further strengthen

these relations.

As pioneers of the non-aligned movement, we have together witnessed the growth of its membership and prestige over the years. The policy of non-alignment continues to be the instrument of foreign policy of both our countries. Its relevance has been proved despite far reaching changes in the world.

In the conduct of our foreign policy, our attempt is to foster friendship with all countries particularly our neighbours. Our relations with Nepal, Burma, Bangladesh and Afghanistan are cordial and there have been several exchanges of visits to strengthen these relations on the basis of equality and peaceful co-existence. The signing of the Farakka Agreement, the discussions held on signing separate treaties on trade and transit with Nepal and forthcoming visit of our Foreign Minister to Pakistan are all pointers towards the desire of India to live peacefully with our neighbours. Our efforts are aimed at joining hands with our neighbours to increase the pace of economic development in the countries of the region.

It is this attitude of goodwill and willingness to cooperate on equal terms which governs our policies to other countries also. We have been able to develop in a constructive spirit mutually beneficial cooperation with most countries of the world. At the same time, we have noted with regret that areas of tension continue to exist in the world and the sudden eruptions of conflict in certain areas disturb peace and inhibit

economic progress. We are in favour of peaceful settlement of disputes by negotiations without external interference and we hope that tensions will be altogether eliminated from the face of the earth,

The continued presence of minority regimes in Zimbabwe and South Africa despite universal condemnation is indeed a challenge to the conscience of humanity. India like Yugoslavia extends full support to the liberation movements and hopes that the differences and disunity among the various movements will be resolved expeditiously. We favour a definite time-bound programme for the transfer of power which can be speeded up only by effective sanctions against the minority regimes.

India desires that the Indian Ocean should be a Zone of peace with no military presence of any foreign power in the region—The economic Development of the littoral states should not be affected by an arms race involving establishment of military bases and deployment of navies. The current discussions between USSR and USA of the demilitarisation of the Indian Ocean augurs well for the area, but India would advocate total elimination of foreign presence and not merely reduction of strength.

Economic cooperation among the nonaligned countries themselves needs to be cultivated with greater fervour. Increasing trade and economic relations between India and Yugoslavia should be an example in this context. Of late, there has been a sizeable amount of diversification of goods exchanged between us.

The recent declared industrial policy of the Government of India lays stress of the development of small-scale and village industries. This would generate a vast amount of employment and give a fillip to the industrial development of rural India. Consequently, industrial activity in India as a whole will move forward with greater speed. We would wish to share with other non-aligned countries our experience in this field and help them to achieve economic progress. India has been in recent years increasingly parti-

cipating in the economic development of the countries in Africa and the Gulf. Yugoslavia too is participating in a big way in the economic development of the countries in Africa, the Gulf and Latin America. I have no doubt that the united efforts of the nonaligned nations will bring about economic strength to the countries and thus strengthen the movement itself. Simultaneously, we shall seek cooperation with developed countries and claim for ourselves our rightful place in the comity of nations.

Friends, I would now like to propose a toast to the health of His Excellency President Josip Broz Tito, to the health of the people who are assembled here and to the well-being of the people of Yugoslavia and India.

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YUGOSLAVIA INDIA BANGLADESH BURMA NEPAL AFGHANISTAN USA PAKISTAN SOUTH AFRICA ZIMBABWE

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BANGLADESH

Indo-Bangladesh Trade Review Talks

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on February 27, 1978 on the Indo-Bangladesh trade review talks:

The trade review talks between India and Bangladesh which began in New Delhi on February 23, 1978, have concluded.

The agreed minutes of the talks were signed by Shri R. D. Thapar, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and by Mr. Matiur Rehman, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Bangladesh on behalf of their respective Governments.

Both the delegations agreed to recommend to their respective Governments that review of trade at the official level between the two countries should be undertaken twice a year so as to facilitate the growth of trade and with a view to remove the problems in the conduct of trade more expeditiously.

It was further recognised that telecommunication arrangements between the two counrties should be further improved which play an important role in trade. It was informed from Indian side that comnunication authorities of India had already invited their counterparts in Bangladesh for Talks in April-May, 1978.

IMPORTS FROM BANGLADESH

Having regard to the need for increasing

India's imports from Bangladesh, the Indian side agreed to the suggestion of Bangladesh to designate a focal point.

It was agreed that the Transport Coordination Committee at the policy level should meet early in order to identify transport bottlenecks and suggest solutions for these problems so that the movement of goods between the two countries could be facilitated.

During the talks it was realised that there was scope for further development and diversification of trade between the two, countries on the mutually advantageous, basis. Keeping in view the objective of intraregional trade expansion it was felt that trade between the two countries was capable of further increase.

For the year 1978 India agreed to import from Bangladesh news-prints (10,000 tonnes), Naphtha (20,000 tonnes), Furnace Oil (40,000 tonnes), Molasses (15,000 tonnes) and Chloro quin diphosphate (20 tonnes) subject to price and quality being found satisfactory. India also agreed to examine some, more items for import which were indicated by Bangladesh during the talks.

Bangladesh agreed to import from India three lakh tonnes of steam coal and further agreed to consider import of 75,000 tonnes of Assam coal.

The Indian side indicated its continued interest in export of items like iron and steel, machinery (non-electric), machinery (electric), transport equipment and other miscellaneous consumer items.

Trade relations with Bangladesh are governed by a trade agreement which was originally entered into in 1973 for an initial validity period of three years but extended for another period of three years in October, 1976. The agreement provides for annual trade review which was last held in February 1977. Upto the end of 1974, the trade between the two countries was governed by a limited payment arrangements. Effective from January, 1975, the trade has been on the basis of payment in free foreign exchange.

Aside from trade in normal channels, commodity and other credits have been extended to Bangladesh for utilisation of inputs of commodities and requirements by it.

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India's major exports items to Bangladesh include coal, engineering goods, iron and steel, chemicals and allied products, cotton manufactures and textile yarn and thread.

India's imports from Bangladesh include items like jute, newsprint paper, chemicals elements and compounds, textile yarn, thread and fish.

BANGLADESH INDIA USA RUSSIA

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CANADA

Promotion of Indian Studies in Canada

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on February 15, 1978 on the promotion of Indian studies in Canada:

An agreement was signed in New Delhi on February 15, 1978 to continue for another three years the activities of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, which has its headquarters at McGill University, Montreal. The two signatories to the agreement were Shri P. Sabanayagam, Union Education Secretary and Prof. Milton Israel, President of the Board of Directors of the Institute.

The Institute is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year.

Under the agreement, the Government of

India will give a grant of Rs. 48 lakhs from the counterpart funds account which will be earmarked for promotion of academic and cultural exchanges between India and Canada. The account is maintained by the Government of India by agreement with the Government of Canada under the latters' assistance programme.

At the signing ceremony, both the sides expressed their happiness over the agreement and hoped that it would give impetus to the activities of the Institute.

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION

Set up in 1968, the Institute is a voluntary organisation whose members are Canadian universities and colleges with an interest in Indian studies. It has, at present 13 members - the National Library of Canada and 12 universities. It administers several programmes for advancement of studies by providing fellowships to Canadian residents to conduct scholarly research in India in the fields of humanities, social sciences and performing arts and by acquiring Indian publications for use in Canadian universities.

The Institute also operates in India a programme for Canadian undergraduates and school teachers to expose them to Indian culture and to the economic, social and political situation in the country. Indian experts are also sent on short-term lecture tours to Canada to promote dialogue between Indian and Canadian scholars in specialised fields.

It also provides books and journals for Indian universities and facilities for microfilming rare Indian archival materials for use by scholars of both the countries.

During the last nine years, over hundred scholars have come over from Canada to India to do research in humanities and social sciences and also to learn Indian languages. In addition, nearly 100 teachers and undergraduate students have come over to this country in order to get first-hand knowledge of the present situation and also to be aware of India's cultural heritage. Nearly 200,000

books published in various languages in India have been purchased by the Institute and supplied to the member institutions in Canada.

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CANADA

Canadian Loan for Import of Fertilizer and Fertilizer Materials

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on February 22, 1978 on the Canadian loan for import of fertilizer and fertilizer materials:

Canada will give a loan of C\$ 10 million (Rs. 7.43 crores) to India for the import of fertilizer and fertilizer materials (MOP, Sulphur, Urea) from Canada. An agreement to this effect was signed in New Delhi on February 22, 1978 by Dr. Manmohan Singh, Secretary, Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance and Mr. R. L. Rogers, 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 an initial grace period of 10 years, and carries no interest, commitment or service charges.

This is the second loan agreement for, the import of fertilizers during 1977-78; the first fertilizer loan agreement for C\$ 32 million was signed on October 6, 1977.

Canada has been giving loans for fertilizer imports for the last 10 years. The annual authorisation for fertilizers from

1973-74 to 1976-77 was of the order of C\$ 10 million. For 1977-78 Canadian authorisation for fertilizers import is C\$ 42 million which is considerably higher than in the past.

With the signing of this agreement, the Canadian aid authorisation during the current financial year totals C\$ 63 million, comprising C\$ 21 million as grant for the import of rapeseed oil and C\$ 42 million as loan for the import of fertilizers.

CANADA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

New Areas of Indo-Czech Collaboration

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on February 8, 1978 on the signing of protocol of industrial cooperation between India and Czechoslovakia:

An important development in the field of industrial cooperation between India and Czechoslovakia is reflected in the protocol signed in New Delhi on February 8, 1978 between Shri George Fernandes, Union Minister of Industry and Mr. Z. Pucek, Minister of Metallurgy and Heavy Engineering of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. As agreed to in the protocol, Czechoslovakia will contribute in promoting the utilisation of industrial capacities of Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi by importing equipment for rolling mills and coke oven batteries. Czechoslovakia will assist the Heavy Engineering Corporation in the manufacture of large capacity cement plants which are required urgently in the country in the context of implementation of the programme for augmenting the production of cement in the country.

The technology being provided by Czechoslovakia to Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi is for manufacture of large capacity cement plants in the range of 1200-3000 tonnes per day. Three cement projects have been identified in the country for utilising the technology to be developed by Heavy Engineering Corporation in collaboration with Czechoslovakia. Two of these projects will be based on granulated slag from the steel projects.

The two Ministers noted that the discussions and conclusions indicated in the protocol reflected the traditional friendship and valuable economic cooperation already subsisting between both the countries. It was also observed that the protocol had laid the basis for developing new dimensions and 61

areas of cooperation between the two countries in keeping with the spirit of friendship and economic development of both the countries.

Mr. Pucek and other members of his delegation expressed appreciation of the growth of capacities and capabilities of the public sector projects in India on the basis of which a new dynamism is being generated in the cooperation between the two countries.

SIGNIFICANT INTRODUCTION

The protocol marks the significant introduction of the principle of complementary production of HEC and Czechoslovakia. Initially, about Rs. 3 crores worth of rolling mill equipment would be imported by Czechoslovakia from HEC for deliveries by 1979 These imports would be balanced by supply of equipment and components from Czechoslovakia for large capacity cement plants, heavy machine tools and spares and components required by HEC, Ranchi.

The protocol has also laid down the basis for further development of cooperation between Czechoslovakia and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) for supply of components for 60/100 MW power generation sets, compensators and other balancing equipment. Negotiations are also in progress for collaboration with BHEL for manufacture of trolley buses. The Czechoslovak side also proposes to purchase trolley buses which would be manufactured in India for their own systems in Czechoslovakia. Supplies of engineering goods to Czechoslovakia would also be made as indicated in the protocol particularly in respect of tower cranes for steel and construction projects.

THIRD COUNTRY PROJECTS

Collaboration for third country projects finds an important place in the protocol. Several projects were identified during the negotiations chiefly relating to cooperation in setting up cement plants, steel plants and crude oil refineries in third countries on the basis of complementary production of the two countries. The lead agencies identified in India for taking up the third country projects with Czechoslovak organisations are Heavy Engineering Corporation, Hindustan Machine Tools Limited, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, Bharat Pumps & Compressors Limited, Jessop & Company Limited, Metallurgical & Engineering Consultants and Engineering Projects (India) Limited.

The Czechoslovak delegation had also discussions with Shri Biju Patnaik, Union Minister of Steel & Mines, Shri Mohan Dharia, Union Minister of Commerce, Civil Supplies & Cooperation and Shri H. N. Bahuguna, Union Minister of Petroleum & Chemicals. The leader of the delegation, Mr. Z. Pucek, called on the Prime Minister.

The Czechoslovak delegation visited the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi; Metallurgical & Engineering Consultants (MECON), Ranchi; Bokaro Steel Ltd; and the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited unit at Hyderabad, and held detailed discussions with the representatives of these public sector undertakings.

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DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Change-over to Trade in Free Foreign Exchange

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on February 3, 1978 on the new trade agreement between India and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea:

The Governments of India and Democratic People's Republic of Korea have agreed to changeover from a bilateral balanced trade through clearing account in rupees to multi-lateral trade in convertible currency. A new trade agreement, incorporating this decision was concluded in New Delhi on February 3, 1978.

The Indian delegation to the talks was led by Shri Mahesh Prasad, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce and the North

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Korean delegation by Mr. Lyu in Kwan, Director-General in the Ministry of Foreign Trade. This agreement replaces the trade and payments agreement concluded between the two countries on February 18, 1974.

The new arrangement will take effect from March 1, 1978 and as from that date all contracts for trade between the exporters and importers (including State-owned organisations) of India and the Foreign Trade Corporations of the DPRK will be settled in freely convertible currency mutually agreed upon between them in accordance with the foreign exchange laws, rules and regulations of the two countries. It is considered that this change-over will result in a smoother

flow of trade both ways.

MOST FAVOURED NATION TREATMENT

Under the agreement the contracting parties shall accord each other most-favoured-nation treatment in all matters relating to trade between the two countries. The agree ment also provides for holding of tarde fairs and exhibitions in each other's country and exploration of ways and means for the most convenient and economical transportation of commodities between the two countries.

The agreement will be valid for a period of two years with provision of automatic extension by one year at a time unless either of the contracting party has given a notice in writing three months before the expiry of the said period, of its intention to terminate the agreement. There will be mutual consultations with each other as and when necessary for facilitating the implementation of the agreement.

All payments arising from export and import contracts and other contracts concluded between the exports and imports of India (including State-owned Organisations) and the Foreign Trade Corporations of DPRK before March 1, 1978 will continue to be governed by the Trade and Payments Agreement of February 18, 1974 and settled as early as possible through export of goods and commodities by mutual agreements between the two contracting parties.

India's two way trade with DPRK which was of the order of Rs. 33 million prior to the conclusion of the Trade and Payments Agreement in February 1974, improved to Rs. 69 million in 1974, Rs. 107 million in 1975, Rs. 94 million in 1976 and to Rs. 106 million in 1977. During the years 1976 and 1977 the trade turn-over represented 31.3 per cent and 34 per cent respectively of the trade plan provision of those years. Imports into India from DPRK consist mainly of magnisea clinker, refractories, sulphur and zinc. India's exports to DPRK have been mainly of mica, ores, jute manufactures, pig iron and cotton manufactures.

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INDIA AND HOME AFFAIRS

President's Address to Parliament

The following is the text of the address by the President of India to Parliament on February 20, 1978:

Honourable Members, I welcome you to this first session of Parliament in the current year which is also the first that I am addressing since I assumed the Office of President of India. While there are many things that claim our attention on this day, my thoughts go out to the people who lost their lives and property and to their kith and kin who survived, the devastating cyclones which struck Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Pondicherry and Lakshdweep. My Government has treated this as a national calamity and has rendered all possible assistance and has fully cooperated with the concerned State Governments in organising relief measures. People from every part of our country have spontaneously and generously made contri-63

butions and I should like to place on record my sincere appreciation of their help.

In the eleven months that have elapsed since the general election, Parliament and Government have gone ahead with speed in restoring to the people the freedoms and protections guaranteed by the Constitution in their original plenitude. The Courts have regained their powers. The Press is free. The citizen is no longer in fear of arbitrary restrictions on his freedom. Step by step, the promise of reestablishing a just balance bet-

ween and among the legislature, the executive. the judiciary and the citizen is being fulfilled. In fact the process is nearly complete except for the constitutional amendments that have to be made.

One of the first tasks to which the Government addressed itself in terms of its mandate was the removal of the authoritarian provisions that had been introduced into the Constitution. The Constitution (Forty-fourth Amendment) Bill, which has been passed by both the Houses of Parliament, is now before the State Legislatures for ratification and it does away with the various restrictions on the jurisdiction of courts. After detailed discussions with leaders of the Opposition Parties, a comprehensive Bill to abolish the distortions introduced by the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, has been drafted and will be introduced during the course of this session. I hope it will receive the full and early cooperation of all sections of the two Houses so that the Constitution can be restored to its true form by removing the dark spots. In particular, there is need to build bulwarks against any possible future bid to use the Constitution itself to negate and subvert the basic principles of democracy.

ELECTORAL LAWS

Several changes that had been introduced in the electoral laws vitiating the equality before law, altering the concept of corrupt practices and abridging the power to appeal to the courts have been repealed. Another Bill is before you to repeal the amendments made in the Representation of Peoples' Act in 1974 and in 1975 so as to restore the democratic elements which obtained prior to these amendments. While undemocratic intrusions are thus being removed, there is need for basic reforms in electoral laws and procedures in order to make the electoral process more equitable and less susceptible to pernicious influences. Government is studying this question in detail and will place its proposals before the political parties very soon.

The people earnestly yearn for cleaner

politics and cleaner administration at all levels. Unless there is faith in the probity of the holders of high office. the future of constitutional Government will not be secure. The Commissions constituted to enquire into the excesses of the Emergency and the allegations against certain individuals who had misused their positions are engaged in their onerous tasks. The Lokpal Bill designed to provide for practical and reliable safeguards against corruption and misuse of power by the elected representatives of the people is before you. Government will also be introducing a Bill to provide that all Members of Parliament should declare their assets, liabilities and business interests.

An alert public opinion is the best guarantor of the rule of law and of honest and efficient democratic Government. By repealing the Prevention of Publication of Objectionable Matter Act and reviving the Parliament Proceedings (Protection of Publication) Act, Parliament has enabled the Press to function once more as a watchdog of liberty of the individual and well-being of the community. Government has taken the initiative to end any kind of control over news agencies. Assessment of the performance of the Press should be left to professional organisations, like the Press Council, which I hope will soon be revived. In order further to facilitate the growth of sturdy and independent newspapers and news services in the country, Government proposes to appoint a Press Commission to make suitable recommendations.

FACILITIES TO POLITICAL PARTIES

The facilities given to all political parties to broadcast over the radio and the television during the elections to State Assemblies in June, 1977 opened a new chapter in the annals of our media. Government has made it very clear not to use the official media for partisan purposes and is awaiting the report of the Working Group which is studying the question of giving greater autonomy to Akashvani and Doordarshan.

A thorough review of the Maintenance of Internal Security Act has been made by

Government and a Bill has already been introduced for the repeal of MISA and for amending the Code of Criminal Procedure. Government has seen to it that while retaining the minimum necessary legal sanctions in the interest of security and defence of India, maintenance of public order and all services and supplies essential to the life of the community, necessary safeguards, including review by boards of judges nominated by the Chief Justices of High Courts, are provided to prevent any kind of arbitrariness in the exercise of such powers.

In some areas of national life, the suppressed feelings of the people have found expression in various forms of protests and agitations. At the same time, the removal of restrictions has been utilised by some sections to indulge in acts of violence, intimidation and sabotage. There have also been acts and threats of terrorism against our personnel and property abroad. While any aggrieved section is welcome to seek redress of its legitimate grievances through constitutional channels open to it, the Government cannot obviously permit lawlessness and violence. Stringent deterrent action will be taken against those indulging in them. The police in the country has to be transformed into an effective instrument of public service not only to maintain law and order but also to protect the rights of citizens, especially the weaker sections. Government has issued detailed directions to the Administration in this regard. Since the Indian Police Act was enacted in 1861 and the last Police Commission was set up as far back as in 1902, the Government has appointed a National Police Commission to examine and recommend on all the major issues pertaining to police administration in the country.

SAFEGUARDS FOR MINORITIES

The Government attaches highest importance to the enforcement of the rights and safeguards for Minorities Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes. The Government feels that standing institutional arrangements are neccessary to en-

able these sections to participate effectively and freely as equal members in the national mainstream. The following Commissions are, therefore, being set up:

- (1) The Minorities Commission is being set up for the enforcement of constitutional safeguards and the protection of laws passed by the Union and the State Governments; and
- (2) The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission is being set up to investigate all matters pertaining to the safeguards for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution and laws.

A Backward Classes Commission is being set up to go into the problems of the backward classes and make recommendations to improve their conditions.

Due to proper management of the economy in the past year, it is today well placed for making a rapid advance in the coming year. The rate of growth of the economy has risen to 5 per cent this year as against less than 2 per cent in the year prior to the assumption of office by this Government. Agricultural production has made up the ground lost last year and foodgrain production is expected to be above 118 million tonnes. The production of commercial crops also is much larger during the current year. The balance of payments continues to be strong in spite of a deceleration of export earnings and our foreign exchange reserves have continued to rise significantly. Procurement has been large in spite of the removal of the zonal system and food stocks are currently about 17 million tonnes even though the offtake from the public distribution system is larger.

Inflationary pressures have been brought under check. While the price rise in the previous year was about 12 per cent, the current level of prices is no higher than the level at the end of March, 1977. The growth of money supply which had been as high as 20 per cent has been brought down substantially in the current year. However, since the inflationary potential in the economy is

considerable Government does not view the price situation with complacency. All available instruments will be deployed to maintain reasonable price stability during the next year.

ECONOMY

This Government inherited an economy in which poverty and unemployment were acute, particularly in the rural areas, and in which the development of the past 30 years had not benefited large numbers. To rectify this neglect of the rural areas as well as to solve the chronic problems of poverty and unemployment Government decided to reorient the strategy of development. Therefore, the Fifth Five Year Plan is being ter-

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minated this year and a new Five Year Plan is being started from April 1978, which will incorporate fully the new thinking of this Government regarding the strategy of development. The primary objectives would be the removal of unemployment and substantial under-employment in the shortest possible time, increasing the availability of basic goods and services to the people in the lowest income groups in the same period, a significant reduction in disparities of income and wealth and a steady progress towards technical self-reliance. The next Five Year Plan will, therefore, give particular emphasis to agriculture and allied activities, cottage and small scale industries, irrigation and power, adult education, universalisation of elementary education, rural water supply and rural roads. The production of basic goods necessary for the economy, such as oil, coal, metals, fertilizers, cement will also be emphasised.

Government has announced a new Industrial Policy which lays emphasis on the development of cottage and small industries widely dispersed throughout the country. This should help in achieving our goal of rapidly increasing employment. This Policy which also covers the role of public sector and large industries, indigenous and foreign techno-

logy, foreign investment, workers' participation and related matters, will go a long way in removing any uncertainty in this regard and lead to a revival of investment.

In the sphere of foreign trade, India's exports have made further advance during the year. The Government has adopted a deliberate policy of minimising the social cost of our exports and has regulated the exports of essential items such as sugar, rice, oil, oil-seeds, fresh vegetables and cement. The adverse impact of this on export earnings has been more than made good by encouraging the growth of exports in the dynamic sectors.

Long years of shortages of domestically produced commodities and imports have led to a host of controls and regulations through the economy. Government is keen that those that have outlived their utility should be removed so that the enterprise and initiative of the people have full play in determining economic activity. The current state of the economy is such that such a policy can be effetively pursued. Already the policy and procedures regarding exports and imports and industrial licensing have been examined with this objective in mind. A committee has been constituted to study comprehensively the entire systems of controls and make recommendations to reduce and streamline them.

Industrial unrest will lead to loss in production and this will not be in anybody's interest. I appeal to employers, employees and others concerned to ensure harmonious Industrial relations so that growth is not affected. In this context I would like to refer to the study group set up by Government to examine this difficult subject. I hope the recommendations of the study group will help in the evolution of a rational wage and income policy.

EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

My Government attaches great importance to the need of overhauling the educational system with a view to meeting the challenge of development as well as providing opportunities of public service to the

students. The problem of illiteracy on such a large scale as prevails also requires to be given priority attention. We have thus to think of educational policies in terms of not only academic but also adult education. In fact, if the country is to make accelerated progress towards the goal we have set before it, the spread of literacy on mass scale is indispensable. Various avenues of consultation with educational authorities have been explored by the Ministry of Education and as a result, guidelines in respect of different fields of education, namely university education, secondary education and primary and adult education have been prepared and enhanced provision is being made in the Central and State plans.

Government attaches the full importance to the promotion of science and technology in order to improve the quality and content of the lives of our people and be conducive to increasing employment. Research effort is being stepped up and made more relevant to our immediate problems in natural resources survey, in agriculture and industry and in energy sources. Government has taken up the implementation of a National Satellite Project. Through this project significant improvement in communications, meteorological and disaster-warning services will become available to the country.

I must refer now to a matter of great importance to our future well-being. The family planning programme has suffered a

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setback this year as a reaction to the excesses committed during the Emergency. We cannot afford to allow this trend in this vital matter. The fact that we are keen that family planning should be wholly voluntary requires that there should be much greater effort towards education and motivation. I appeal to the State Governments and to all people to recognise the importance of the programme and to assist in the measures to achieve the national targets.

FAMILY WELFARE

Another subject of vital importance to

family welfare and to the discharge of a constitutional responsibility is prohibition. As decided in the Conference of Chief Ministers and Ministers held last year, prohibition will be introduced throughout the country in a phased manner during the next four years. The details of the phased programme are being worked out in consultation with the States.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

Hon'ble Members, I now come to our relations with other countries. My Government has spared no effort in striving to make our sub-continent an area of peace and cooperation. through a series of initiatives in our bilateral relations with neighbouring countries. Agreement was reached with Bangladesh on the sharing of the Ganga Waters. We have approached our relations with other neighbours like Bhutan, Nepal, Afghanistan, Burma, Sri Lanka and Pakistan in the same spirit, based on equality, mutual respect and appreciation of each other's sensitivities and aspiration. In particular, our bilateral relations with Iran have registered an improvement which only an enlightened approach to mutual understanding could have achieved:

Although differences relating to the border remain unresolved, we are gradually improving bilateral relations with China on the basis of the Panchsheel. My Government has recognised the importance of developing close relations with the countries in South-East Asia. We have made significant strides in beginning to build bridges of cooperation with the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and other States of Indo-China and with the Commonwealth countries in this region. For the first time, the Commonwealth Heads of Governments of the region met together recently and discussed methods of increasing mutual cooperation. With Japan, there is a deeper understanding and realisation that Indo-Japanese relations can be a contributing factor in achieving peace and promoting development in Asia.

The Government has based its relations with the Great Powers on the firm belief in a commitment to genuine non-alignment,

beneficial bilateralism and furtherance of constructive international cooperation. We are confident that the many sided cooperation and understanding which we have built with the Soviet Union and other Socialist countries will be strengthened and enriched. We have achieved cordiality and friendship in our relations with the United States of America and Western democracies with whom we share a common belief in the democratic system of Government. It is our hope that notwithstanding the differences which we may have had in the past, we can now foster these relations to a new level and quality of mutual confidence which will transcend differences on specific matters and enlarge the area of understanding and faith in each other.

Tensions still beset specific areas of the world, particularly in Southern Africa and West Asia. We have continued to support the African countries and their liberation movements in the struggle against colonialism and racialism and have pledged our political and material support to the liberation movements in Namibia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. We cannot over-emphasise the need for unity amongst the African leaders in dealing with the common enemy of racialism and colonialism. In West Asia, we continue to hold the view that a just and lasting settle. ment based on the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied territories, and in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations which secure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and security for all States of the region, is essential for durable peace in that region.

My Government has strengthened India's constructive participation in international forums - in the United Nations, in the non-aligned world, in the Commonwealth and in the conference on International Economic Cooperation.

PEACE AND STABILITY

We are convinced that the enormous problems facing both the developing and the

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developed countries can be solved only if there is peace and stability in all parts of the world. In order to bring this about, it is essential that the major nuclear powers arrive at an early agreement on test ban, on reduction and ultimate elimination of all nuclear weapons, and on peaceful exploitation of atomic energy on the basis of respect for sovereignty, equality and non-discrimination. Nuclear disarmament is a matter of foremost concern to all the countries of the world and we hope that at the Disarmament Conference proposed to be held later this year the major nuclear powers will be able to announce an agreed and time-bound programme of disarmament. For our part, we have reiterated our solemn resolve to use nuclear energy only for peaceful purposes and have also made it clear that we will unilaterally desist from making nuclear tests. We are, however, opposed to any form of discrimination in this vital sector.

Hon'ble Members, during this Session you have to consider the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure and the Demands for Grants for the coming financial year which will determine the new direction in which the country will progress in the coming years. You will have to finalise the legislative measures already pending with you and also deal with the new ones that will be presented, to some of which I have earlier made mention. Many of these-measures are of far reaching importance in strengthening our democratic polity and economy. You thus have a very heavy agenda before you. I would not therefore detain you any longer, I summon you to your endeavours and wish you all success. Jai Hind.

INDIA USA LATVIA AFGHANISTAN BHUTAN NEPAL BURMA PAKISTAN SRI LANKA IRAN CHINA VIETNAM JAPAN NAMIBIA ZIMBABWE ISRAEL

Date: Feb 01, 1978

Volume No

INDIA AND THE COMMONWEALTH

Prime Minister's Speech at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Regional Meeting

The following is text of the speech by the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, in response to the opening speeches by the Governor General of Australia, the Prime Minister of Australia and the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth in Sydney on February 13, 1978 at the Commonwealth Heads of Government regional meeting:

I am very happy to be given this opportunity to express on my behalf and on behalf of all the Heads of Governments who have assembled here at your invitation, our warm and sincere appreciation of your cordial welcome and for making us feel at home in this beautiful city. This meeting marks an innovation in the history of the Commonwealth - an innovation which is well in the tradition of the Commonwealth, the essential character of which is to adapt itself by common consent to changing situations.

When, during the London Conference last year, Prime Minister Fraser proposed the idea of a regional meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Governments in the Asian and Pacific Zone, I readily supported the initiative because I felt that it would be a positive measure which could bring us closer in a functional and purposeful manner without in any way marking us apart from the rest of the Commonwealth. Consultations among those intimately concerned with problems relating to the environment in which we function every day are likely to be more realistic and purposeful than such consultation far away from the scene.

I may elaborate on this approach. The Commonwealth is now a large group representing countries far apart in geographical and economic spread. Even around the table, we reflect the diversity of the Commonwealth in as much as there are developed countries, middle income countries and developing countries. Most of us produce raw materials and 68

convert them into consumer products. Some of us, including India, are mainly agricultural countries, the economies of which are vulnerable to climatic hazard, control of which is difficult and time consuming. Even Australia and New Zealand have major agricultural sectors which are subject to similar vagaries. Together we represent a potentially prosperous group of countries on the globe. We must find complementarities in our different systems so that we can help ourselves and help one another better.

CONNECTING BOND

Apart from our belonging to the Commonwealth, we have a connecting bond in the twin oceans which wash the shores of all our countries. History has kept us apart, but geography and economics can bring us together hi a cooperative endeavour. It is time we turned and recognised one another as potential partners in our quest for fulfilment as nations without affecting the role we have to play in the larger sphere of the world. There are already institutions like the Colombo Plan, ESCAP and ASEAN which have developed useful and productive links between many of us. There need be no intention to duplicate such institutions or to rival them. Nevertheless, we can address ourselves to a number of ideas and proposals which will help our country to strengthen links where they exist and forge many new links. This by itself would be no small achievement. May I assure our Australian colleague of our wholehearted support for his initiative as this region of ours has yet to develop its full potential for mutual cooperation?

Happily, the region we represent is now free from military tensions and this is a great blessing which allows us to forge new understandings and reinforce the global grid of peaceful cooperation.

The Australian Government and the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth have taken immense trouble to prepare for this meeting. An impressive portfolio of papers has been presented to us covering a whole range of salient questions like the common fund, industrial cooperation, food production, external debt, trade, transfer of technology, sources of energy and the special problems of small States. We must thank those who have composed these useful documents for us. The study of these documents will enable us to work out common approach an to direct our respective Governments to explore the possibilities of cooperation outlined in them without prejudice to our own philosophies - given the diversity of our countries in size, population, economic character, it is natural for us to have diverse opinions on development. The usefulness of the Commonwealth lies in the consensus on specific action programmes which it promotes without perpetuating the diversity or imposing an artificial unanimity.

CHALLENGE OF OUR TIMES

Before I close, I may be permitted a few words on India's thinking about the challenge of our times - not just in our region but in the world context. India is a large country both in resources and in problems. We believe in an inter-dependent world order based on equity and freedom. This demands overlapping circles of cooperation. Many of our problems are common. The sinews of politics are in economics, but at the base of economics is, not the false God of GNP, but man, the measures of all things. We find today that some countries may have paid too high a price for prosperity - too high a social and moral pi-ice. Those of us who are still a long way off from prosperity could avoid some of the mistakes of headlong industrialisation which have threatened to pollute the globe or blow it up into smithereens or consign whole sections of mankind to degradation. At the same time, there is no turning our backs on scientific advance and technology. What we need is an infusion of humanism and an awareness of the public good into the scientific temper.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Our experience in economic development

over the last 3 decades has not been without frustration. But we have persisted in our endeavours to bring about a change in our economic situation. We have now decided to break away from over emphasis on urban and large-scale industrial development in favour of an employment oriented and rural reconstruction with accent on cottage and village industries without adversely affecting the industrial progress we have already achieved. Our eventual aim is to develop our resources and collaborate with other countries in such a manner that we all of the developing countries may better our lot and seek in each other's well-being satisfaction of hav-

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ing attempted and placed our own part of the world on the sure and safe road to shared Welfare. In seeking such detailed complementarities, our friends in the region may be encouraged by the relevance of our developmental experience and the total absence of any hint of power relationship which sometimes deters collaboration.

Mr. Chairman, we are happy to be with you for a few days in this great country, a country great not only in size but in its potential for doing good to mankind which peoples our planet. We aspire with you for a better and a happier world. May I thank you once again for your initiative and assure you all our support for the success of this conference in the best traditions of the Commonwealth.

INDIA AUSTRALIA USA UNITED KINGDOM PERU NEW ZEALAND SRI LANKA

Date: Feb 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND THE COMMONWEALTH

Prime Minister's Call at Sydney Conference to Encourage Conservation of Energy

The following is the text of the lead speech by the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, at the discussion on energy issues in Sydney on February 14, 1978:

Mr. Chairman and friends,

I am glad that I have been asked to lead our discussions on energy issues. As a developing country it is a question of vital concern to us in India both for our rural population and our industries.

Each country has its own energy perspective and must develop those sources of energy where it can derive the best results not just in terms of immediate profit but in the long term interests of its people. Conditions of every country and availability of basic source of energy and capability will determine its choice of the technology of energy.

When coal and oil began to be used as motive power for industry and transport, there was a great transformation which brought forth both prosperity and poverty on a scale hitherto unknown to man. Coal. and later, oil, fuelled the age of machine. Oil began to replace coal because of its cheapness and superior utility, its cheap price and assured supply lulled the industrial world into a sense of complacency, with the result that despite the known limited period of exhaustion, no efforts were made to study alternatives. The world suddenly awakened with a shock to find that these treasures are finite and that they could be very expensive. In fact it is quite safe to presume that even the current prices would hold good for more than a short period. Consequently, we have all to become conservatives - or conservationists, if you like - and the wasting spree has to come to an end. It is certain that if we go on burning up the fossil fuels like this, the lights will go out everywhere much sooner than expected. Is it for such a fate of chilly darkness that human intelligence has striven all these centuries progressively to a happier state of living? What avails it if man, in an attempt to exploit nature, should be vanguished by his own folly and extravagance? This wisdom which has dawned on us was prefigured in our own country. Gandhiji tried to put across to his countrymen that man should not become a slave to the machine and a victim of the machine age. He wanted us to develop an integral personality in communion with the environment and with fellowmen. Advanced countries have now begun to see how dangerous it is to measure progress in terms of energy consumption per capita. We must correct such concepts and replace them by the welfare criteria and the good of humanity.

CLOCK OF DEVELOPMENT

We cannot, of course, reverse the clock of development on modern age. Pollution is one of the worst of them and the source of energy has to be so chosen that the evils of pollution and degradation of environment are reduced to the minimum. We have fairly abundant reserves of coal. But coal is also exhaustible and has to be exploited in an efficient way, including lower grades of coal and lignite. The pollution would also have to be seriously tackled.

Hydro-electric power is the next most important and promising source of energy, not only for India but for other countries as well. What is better still is that with hydropower the risk of pollution is neither so strong nor unmanageable. We should systematically survey our hydel power potential and cooperate with neighbours to tap it for mutual benefit. Unlike oil, hydel power comes ever fresh and endless, from the snow

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mountains and rain-fed rivers. To tap this fully in South Asia is a challenge to both engineering and fellowship.

Modern science has opened up the atom and released its power for use by man, nuclear power can be harnessed for electricity, but there are well-known difficulties which have not been fully resolved as yet - notably the proper reactor and the disposal of waste.

SOURCES OF ENERGY

Two other sources of energy must claim our attention - biogas and solar energy. The advantage of using biogas plants in the villages is that it fits in with the technology of rural areas. There are, I believe, some problems yet to be resolved before it can be popularised in a large way to help the smaller peasants. In India we are trying to work a strategy of communal biogas plants, this is one energy source which would be relevant to conditions in small countries as well as large ones - in town as well as villages. Large concentration of cattle population in villages and dairies particularly lend themselves to exploitation of this source of domestic use and small power requirements. It also provides a good opportunity for regional technical cooperation amongst countries.

Solar energy is already beginning to be applied to a number of purposes such as improved drying of agricultural produce, pumping water, de-salination, heating and airconditioning. Many countries are carrying on research into the application of solar energy. All our countries are blessed with abundant sunlight and we should therefore have a primary interest in speeding up the commercial development of practical appliances using solar energy. India recently hosted a Conference on Solar Energy and we were gratified by the interest it generated. Here also immediate prospects are reasonably good for domestic use and small power use but research meaningfully and energetically pursued can hasten the possibility of use for industrial purposes as well. The question arises: on what basis should a country pursue its efforts to determine from a long term point of view the proper and feasible alternative sources of energy? This is a problem which has to be solved necessarily on the basis of local conditions and circumstances. So far as India is concerned, we have to exploit all the alternatives sources that I have enumerated. Of these the easiest is hydroelectricity because there is very little of technology that we have to learn. In fact we have already made substantial progress in exploiting this source of energy both for power and electricity. However there are many parts of the country where this source of energy would not be readily

available. In the rural areas we have decided to go as far as we can in the use of biogas for domestic and small power needs. We have various types of biogas plants in use and from the point of view of capital investment they cover both an individual farmer or small entrepreneur and larger plants to suit the needs of an organised community, a small township or bigger village. I have no doubt myself that rural economy in particular has a great deal to benefit from this source. For apart from power in a small way, the byproduct of soil nutrients would in itself be of great benefit to the agriculturists. In addition the exploitation of this source takes to the villages the allied occupation of cattle breeding and dairying. In our view, biogas plants would be an important agent in bringing about rural reconstruction. On the coasts and in mountain valleys and mountain sides - wind mills, after some research, could become a substitute for coal or oil. In the field of solar energy, the scientists and technologists have some worlds to conquer. If they succeed, we should be able to exploit the plentiful supply of sunshine for our energy needs.

OIL RESOURCES

This does not mean, however, that countries which have potentialities of developing oil resources should not do so. We ourselves have been fortunate to discover substantial offshore sources of oil and have already begun to exploit one large source of both oil and gas in the area which is known as Bombay High. So long as oil does last, it should be possible for the countries who have command over this wealth to exploit this source not from the point of view of spending it so much as conserving it and making it last as long as possible. With the availability of natural gas in many places we my also utilise gas turbines for production for power.

Taking an overall view we are hoping that in the near future, perhaps within a decade, we shall be able to find enough power resources of our own to be able to achieve self-reliance and to put a stop to the heavy drain which is involved in our import of oil at present. A substantial amount of re-

search and development of new technology is involved, but having regard to the progress we have already made in different fields, the situation is not without promise.

In the light of our own experience I can only commend the fellow countries in this region to study the problem of alternative sources of energy, having regard to the availability of relevant resources. At the same time taking the various diversities that prevail and the prospect of exhaustion of available resources of oil and high prices, it is necessary that all of us pool our resources and make over our own competence to whatever extent may be available, to other countries, so as to share the benefits in common. From this point of view, I cannot too strongly commend the setting up of a consultative committee on a regional basis, drawn from various countries, in order to help in the assessment of problems of each country, suggest lines of research and fields of experimentation so that by cooperative effort we can help ourselves and all of us to transform an abstract Into concrete and take up worth while projects of alternative sources of energy and their utilisation.

I would like to conclude by stressing the importance of economising energy. All Governments can do more to discourage waste of energy and encourage conservation of energy.

The Australian paper before the conference suggests that experiments must be earnestly continued on alternative source of energy and that there should be cooperative endeavour in the work of research and development. As would be clear from what I have said, we fully endorse this suggestion and so far as India is concerned, I can assure this meeting that we would fully cooperate with such regional effort. In conclusion I can only reiterate that the question of future sources of energy affects the very basis of progress and in it is involved the prosperity and happiness of mankind, not only in this region but in the world as a whole.

Date: Feb 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND THE COMMONWEALTH

Prime Minister's Speech in Parliament on His Participation in Commonwealth Conference at Sydney

The Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, made the following statement in Parliament on February 24, 1978 regarding his participation in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Regional meeting held at Sydney, Australia from February 13 to 16, 1978:

On 17th February I returned from the meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government of Asian and Pacific Region, which was held in Sydney for the first time. The initiative for this Conference was taken by Prime Minister Fraser of Australia at the Commonwealth Conference held in London last June. Even at that time. I had welcomed the proposal since I believed that a smaller regional meeting could be more useful and effective in initiating and pursuing plans for cooperation in a number of fields, mainly economic. We were glad to note that the Sydney meeting was attended by the Heads of Government of all the 12 countries in the region. I was accompanied by a delegation which included the Minister for External Affairs.

From India's point of view, the Conference served an important purpose in bringing together the leaders of the Commonwealth countries in the Asian and the Pacific region, some of them from small countries like Nauru, West Samoa and Tonga, with which we have not had close contacts. I also had a valuable opportunity to renew my ac-

quaintance with President Zia ur Rahman of Bangladesh, President Jayawerdene of Sri Lanka, Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore, Prime Minister Hussain Onn of Malaysia, Prime Minister Rabu Sir Kamsese Mara of Fiji, Prime Minister Muldoon of New Zealand, and also Prime Minister Fraser, who, as host, was in the chair.

ACT OF TERRORISM

Though the meeting was sought to be disrupted by a deplorable act of terrorism at the venue of the Conference, by unanimous agreement the Conference went on as scheduled. The Australian Government spared no pains to protect the delegations from the hazards of sabotage. Their arrangements and hospitality won admiration from all participants. I would also like to record my thanks to our Australian hosts through this, statement.

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During the regular and informal discussions, we covered a great number of topics which are reflected in the Joint Communique, which is consistent with our basic views and aspirations. These included international relations in South Asia, South-east Asia and the Pacific, questions like terrorism, disarmament, the Indian Ocean, Southern Africa and the Middle East. The main emphasis was on international economic issues, the danger of protectionism and the need for freer trade, Commodities and the Common Fund, measures to promote industrial development, debt burdens, plans and prospects for regional economic and functional cooperation on energy, human resources, food production and rural development, curbing drug trafficking and the special problems of small island States.

It was decided to set up two consultative groups on trade and energy respectively and two working groups on terrorism and illicit drugs respectively. The reference paper presented by India on altenative sources of energy and my initiating the discussion aroused earnest interest, as a result of which India was asked to coordinate the group on energy. The meeting also decided that

special Commonwealth programmes to assist small States should be presented for further consideration.

NEXT REGIONAL MEETING

As announced in the Press, one of the important decisions concerning India is that we have agreed to host the next regional meeting at Delhi in 1980. This request came at the suggest-ion of several member countries. It was gratifying to note the esteem with which India is regarded by the countries in the region and the possibilities for strengthening our cooperation with them in many fields. The diversity of India and the range of its developmental experience are beginning to be noted as relevant patterns of growth for several developing countries. This meeting enabled me to assure my colleagues from these countries that India would be happy to share whatever knowledge and experience we have gathered in the difficult process of economic diversification and development.

To sum up, the Sydney meeting was a worthwhile innovation because it was both regional and functional. This forum does not subsume or substitute other agencies for regional cooperation such as ESCAP and ASEAN. The very flexibility and informality of the group may be expected to provide a suitable framework for furthering our bilateral and multilateral contacts in the Asian and Pacific region. We shall associate ourselves actively in the follow-up measures which are planned by the working groups in order to make the Delhi meeting in 1980 a worthy successor to the Sydney meeting.

INDIA AUSTRALIA USA UNITED KINGDOM NAURU TONGA BANGLADESH REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE MALAYSIA FIJI MALI

Date: Feb 01, 1978

Volume No

INDIA AND THE COMMONWEALTH

Shri Patel Inaugurates Pan Commonwealth Seminar

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on February 27, 1978 on the Pan Commonwealth Seminar inaugurated by Shri H. M. Patel:

Public sector enterprises have come to occupy a very vital role in the emerging pattern of planned development in the country. From the initial stages of heavy losses they have now come of age and are making profits and showing surpluses. This was stated by the Finance Minister Shri H. M. Patel in New Delhi on February 27, 1978 while inaugurating the Pan Commonwealth Seminar on issues in Public Enterprise Development.

The Minister said that it was very important for public sector to move into areas where best possible results could be achieved in the shortest possible time. Public enterprises must show greater surpluses to be used for further growth to justify their establishment.

The two decades of economic planning during which public sector had made spectacular progress measured in terms of capital outlay, volume of turn over and range and sophistication of its products also exposed some areas of weakness in formulation of projects, the Minister said. This showed that the management structure of the public

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sector enterprises had to be streamlined. Shri Patel emphasised that by taking imaginative decisions and adhering to the time schedules, the public sector enterprises could show better results.

Enumerating the causes of low profit of public enterprises in the beginning Shri Patel said that more people were employed than required in enthusiasm to generate employment. Public accountability was another factor which hindered faster development of these enterprises.

Earlier welcoming the Minister Shri C. R. Krishna Swamy Raosahib, Secretary, Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms, said that public sector was now an accepted concept and the Organisation and operation of public sector enterprises to subserve national goals of economic advancement and public welfare an accepted policy. No doubt, the structure and role of public enterprises would differ from country to country, as also their coverage and mode of operation nevertheless it was clear that in the setting up and running of such enterprises there must exist considerable area which admitted of fruitful discussions for exchange of ideas and the sharing of experience, he said.

DELEGATES

The five-day Pan Commonwealth Seminar will focus attention on issues arising out of the rationale for setting up public enterprises. It will also examine some of the issues experienced in the management and development of public enterprises. The Seminar will also try to determine how best the experience of various countries of commonwealth-family could be of mutual benefit.

Thirty delegates from commonwealth countries are attending the Seminar. Participating countries are: Australia, Bangladesh, Barbados, Botswana, Britain, Canada, The Gambia, Ghana, Guyana, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, New Zealand, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago, Western Samoa And Zambia.

INDIA USA AUSTRALIA BOTSWANA CANADA THE GAMBIA GHANA GUYANA JAMAICA KENYA LESOTHO MALAWI MALAYSIA MALTA MAURITIUS NEW ZEALAND NIGER NIGERIA GUINEA SIERRA LEONE SRI LANKA SWAZILAND TANZANIA ZAMBIA

Date: Feb 01, 1978

Volume No

INDIA AND UNICEF

Nine-Point Strategy for International Year of the Child

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on February 14, 1978:

India is making a special contribution of nine lakh rupees to UNICEF for the observance of the International Year of the Child next year.

This has been stated by Shrimati Renuka Deva Barkataki, Minister of State for Education and Social Welfare, at a meeting convened to discuss the draft National Plan for the observance of the Year. The meeting, held on February 13, 1978 was attended by nearly fifty representatives of international organisations, Union Ministries and voluntary bodies.

The Minister said that the National Children's Board, which has been recently reconstituted under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, will function as the National Committee of the International Year of the Child. The Board, which has Mother Teresa among its non-official members, also includes the Union Minister for Finance and the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission for the first time.

Shrimati Barkataki told the meeting that the number of Integrated Child Development Service projects is being increased to one hundred to coincide with the IYC. The package programme, which caters to the welfare of children and nursing and expectant mothers, at present covers thirtythree

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blocks. Provision for supply of safe drinking water in rural areas is also being stepped up.

The draft plan, which seeks to identify

a nine-point national strategy encompassing health, education, and nutrition in regard to children and mothers, is to undergo further consideration, before it is finalised by the National Children's Board. It mentions three categories of children for special attention. These are children of working mothers, destitute children and handicapped children.

Meanwhile, the Department of Social Welfare is preparing a review document on the status of children in India, which will cover existing programmes and future perspectives.

INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date: Feb 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

INDIAN OCEAN

Shri Vajpayee's Statement on Reported Presence of U. S. Naval Force in Indian Ocean

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on February 27, 1978:

The Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee made the following statement in the Lok Sabha today on the reported presence of U.S. Naval Force in the Indian Ocean as a consequence of the explosive situation in the Horn of Africa and the suspension of US-Soviet negotiations over arms limitation in the Indian Ocean. The Minister made the statement in reply to a Calling Attention Notice by Dr. Baldev and four others.

The House is fully aware of the Government's view that military presence of Great Powers in Indian Ocean is a cause of tension and insecurity in the area. The concept of

a Zone of Peace in the Indian Ocean implies elimination of foreign military presence from the area. India, a member of the U.N. Ad Hoc Committee, is also actively participating in the implementation of the U.N. Resolution on Zone of Peace in the Indian Ocean. Preparations for a meeting of the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean to be convened in New York for implementing the U.N. Resolution, are at hand. India has given expression to its belief that for achieving concrete results, the participation of Great Powers and major maritime users of Indian Ocean in the proposed international conference is essential.

It is in this context that India has welcomed USA-USSR talks on mutual arms limitation in the Indian Ocean as a step towards the establishment of Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace although our objective remains that of elimination of all foreign military presence from the Indian Ocean. India hopes that any bilateral understanding agreement reached by the Great Powers shall incline them to extend increased cooperation to the U.N. in this matter and thus facilitate the establishment of the Zone of Peace.

SITUATION IN HORN OF AFRICA

The current explosive situation in the Horn of Africa is a source of deep concern to us. Ethopia and Somalia, apart from being neighbours linked to us by the Indian Ocean, with whom we have friendly relations, are also developing countries and our fellow partners in the non-aligned fraternity of nations. The continuance of this conflict is vitiating the generally improving climate of international relations and causing a serious set-back to detente. This makes it all the more imperative for us to contribute to the search of an early peaceful and negotiated solution to the problem. This House will recall that as early as August last, I had appealed to the leaders of Ethiopia and Somalia through their Charge d'Affaires in New Delhi, for exercise of restraint and statesmanship, and had also expressed the hope

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that a peaceful settlement of the dispute

would be arrived at and that the OAU Good Offices Committee on this subject would succeed. I had also expressed our apprehension that the conflict in the Horn of Africa would divert attention away from the burning issues in Southern Africa and that the continuation of the dispute would weaken the Non-aligned movement and invite increased Great Power rivalry in the region. To our great disappointment, the OAU efforts have not yet succeeded and some of our fears are proving correct.

The differences between Ethiopia and Somalia over the Ogaden province of Ethiopia erupted in the form of a full-scale armed conflict last June. Ethiopia ascribed this to the invasion of its territory by Somalian troops while Somalia claimed it as liberation of Ogaden by the Western. Somalian Liberation Front. Though the matter came before the OAU summit conference in Libreville last August, its subsequent mediatory efforts did not succeed. The situation continued to deteriorate. Now, there are reports of large scale external military involvement in the area. Even allegations have been made that Ethiopia with its augmented military capabilities may decide to carry the war accros the frontiers. Ethiopia, as the House is aware, has denied these allegations and has gone on record to say that its objective is to get the aggression vacated.

DESAI'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH CARTER AND BREZHNEV

Our Prime Minister has had an exchange of correspondence with President Carter of USA and President Brezhnev of USSR in which the developing situation in the Horn of Africa has been referred to. He has stated that the conflict in the Horn of Africa required restraint on the part of external powers as it could become more complicated by increasing rivalry and foreign military involvement. He has suggested that ways and means of restraint should be found to bring about a settlement respecting the principle, of inviolability of the establishment frontiers as enshrined in the OAU Charter and that an acceptable political solution under, the OAU, UN or any other mutually

acceptable auspices, be urged.

Secretary of State Vance had stated in his Press Conference on 10th February 1978 that the Soviet and Cuban involvement cannot help but have an effect upon the relationship between USA on the one hand and USSR and Cuba on the other, and that it is a matter which USA will obviously keep in mind as they proceed with the talks on the Indian Ocean because what seems to be happening there was in his view inconsistent with the limitation of forces in so far as the Indian Ocean talks were concerned. Even then, he had observed that USA would continue with those talks, but point out that obviously it affected the political atmosphere in which those talks are carried forward.

There have been some consultations recently about the desirability of convening the Security Council of the United Nations to consider the situation in the Horn of Africa. Both the USA and UK feel that the aim of a debate in the UN Security Council would be to have deliberations and seek negotiations which would. contribute to a political solution by reinforcing, through UN involvement, the OAU efforts at mediation. They stress that the purpose of the Council meeting is to seek a settlement and not to engage in a propaganda exercise. They also feel that the respect of territorial integrity of all States in the area should be one of the guiding principles in bringing about a peaceful resolution. In fact, as stated by Dr. Brezinski, the US position is that Somalia ought to withdraw to its territorial frontiers, that the invasion of Ethiopia ought to be terminated, that there ought to be peace keeping arrangements, preferably by the OAU, and, in that context the reported foreign involvement by the Soviet Union and Cuba ought to be also terminated by the departure of their forces,

The Soviet Union holds the view that the first step is the Somali withdrawal from Ogaden. They are at pains to point out that while Western Powers had shown no concern at the time of Somali aggression of Ethiopia, they are now voicing their concern about the situation in the Horn of Africa when the Ethopian side has begun to repel

this aggression. They feel that their assistance to Ethiopia in repelling the aggression should not be construed in any way as their being interested in the expansion of the conflict. They are categorical in stating that cease-fire without Somali withdrawal is not possible. They think that once Somali forces have withdrawn, the problem could be tackled by the OAU. They have informed the USA that they are opposed to a Security

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Council as it would only exacerbate the situation.

We also understand that the African group is not in favour of discussions in the Security Council. At the same time, Nigeria. who is chairman of the OAU Mediation Committee, has been trying very hard to mediate between Ethiopia and Somalia in order to bring the conflict to an end. Nigerian efforts seem at last to be succeeding with their having arranged a meeting, which would take place tomorrow in Lagos, between the special emissaries of Ethiopia and Somlia.

INTRA-AFRICAN PROBLEMS

We have all along felt that the solution to the problem - as indeed for all intra-African problems - should be sought in consonance with the letter and spirit of the OAU Charter. We, therefore, believe that the parties to the dispute should respect and observe the letter and the spirit of this Charter. We are in favour of any concrete and agreed initiative that can bring about such a solution. We, therefore, welcome the Lagos meeting on February 28, 1978, between Ethiopian and Somalian special emissaries and hope that it will have a successful outcome. We would support any moves which would reinforce the OAU efforts leading to cessation of hostilities and a mutually acceptable solution, and we hope that the requisite cooperation for the success of such efforts would be forthcoming from all parties concerned

I would now refer to what certain Hon'ble Members seem to regard as a connected move, namely, the reported U.S. naval presence in the Indian Ocean. There have also been reports of naval presence of other Great Powers in the area. While it is not possible for us to accurately assess the connection between this development and the situation in the Horn of Africa, we are of the view that such foreign naval presence in the region cannot but act as an impediment to the lessening of the tension in the area, and also to the effort of the international community for establishment of a Zone of Peace in Indian Ocean.

ARMS LIMITATIONS

There is no truth in the reports that due to developments in the Horn of Africa, US-USSR talks on questions concerning arms limitation measures in the Indian Ocean have been suspended. In fact, the last round of such talks was held in Berne, Switzerland according to schedule, from February 7 to February 17. Thus, the talks did not end abruptly nor were they called off prematuredly on account of the situation in the Horn of Africa or for any other reason. However, we are given to understand that the US Government has informed the Soviet delegation at these talks that it regretted the current Soviet activities in the Horn on Africa and that the increase in Soviet naval forces was inconsistent with the spirit and substance of the negotiations. The Soviet side view this as another instance of the American practice of making use of unrelated situation for political purposes. As regards the substance of the negotiations that ended ten days ago, we understand that concrete progress has been registered. Both USA and USSR have characterised the discussions as "frank and useful" contributing to an understanding of each other's position. Moreover, there is agreement for these talks to be resumed, though unlike the hitherto practice of agreeing upon approximate date and venue of the next round of talks, the date of subsequent meeting has been left to be fixed by mutual agreement later on.

Sir, we have always held that the benefits of detente should flow to the international community as a whole. We have always been in favour of peaceful solution of disputes bilaterally, or through regional organisations such as the OAU in case of intra-African problems, and if need be, through mutually acceptable auspices. Indian Ocean should be a Zone of Peace guaranteeing peaceful maritime activity through which international commerce flows. Meaningful programmes of economic cooperation among its littoral and hinterland States for the benefit and welfare of the people inhabiting Indian Ocean region ought to be developed. Any development which impedes evolution of the course of events in these directions is a matter of serious concern to us. What is more, Indian can ill afford to have tensioncreating presence in the vicinity of its maritime zones. This is how we view the situation to which the Honourable Members have drawn attention. This House will agree that a just, peaceful and negotiated settlement of the problem in the Horn of Africa is bound to exercise a healthy

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influence in bringing about an early establishment of Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and will be conducive to development of mutually beneficial inter-se economic cooperation in the region. All efforts in this direction will have our full support,

INDIA USA MALI SOMALIA PERU ETHIOPIA GABON CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CUBA UNITED KINGDOM NIGER NIGERIA SWITZERLAND

Date: Feb 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

IRAN

President's Address at Banquet in Honour of Shahanshah of Iran

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on February 2, 1978 of the speech the President, Shri N.

Sanjiva Reddy, made at the banquet held on February 2, in honour of Their Majesties Shahanshah and Shahbanou of Iran:

Your Imperial Majesties, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great privilege and pleasure to have Your Imperial Majesty and Her Imperial Majesty the Shahbanou in our midst after three years. Your Imperial Majesties have given our people the opportunity of welcoming you on other occasions in the past as well. Similarly, our leaders have visited your great country on numerous occasions. The exchanges of views, which have been made possible by these visits, have invigorated the multi-dimensional relationship that exists between India and Iran. With every high-level visit that has been exchanged between our two countries, it has been possible to enlarge areas of cooperation and complementarity and come close together in our attitude to our and world problems. We have no doubt whatsoever that the present visit will impart further dynamism and vitality to the process of beneficial cooperation and mutual understanding between our two countries.

The culture and traditions of our two countries have much in common. India's contacts with Iran go back many thousand years in history and legends. There has been a continuous interflow of thoughts, beliefs and ideas between the two countries. Ancient Pahlavi and modern Persian are akin to us. symbolising the continuity of a great cultural tradition which has its root in the ancient past and influenced us, and in turn, has been influenced by us. It is, therefore, not surprising that we share so much common inheritance of the way of life of our two peoples, in our customs and manners, arts and crafts, literature and lore, and above all, in the common values which we have carefully nursed, nourished and cherished through the centuries.

It is, therefore, only natural that we continue to share certain attitudes in our international and bilateral issues. Both our countries believe in the peaceful settlement

of disputes, through friendly discussions. In our relations with our neighbours, we have both consistently tried with sincerity and goodwill to foster ties of friendship and good neighbourliness.

PHENOMENAL TRANSFORMATION

Iran has been experiencing a phenomenal transformation under the dynamic and farsighted leadership of Your Imperial Majesty and a social and cultural uplift under the inspiration of Her Imperial Majesty. Retaining the abiding values of a great civilisation, your country is marching forward to reap the benefits of scientific and technological advancement. The remarkable progress achieved by Iran during the recent years stands testimony to your wisdom, foresight and able stewardship. It can be truly said that the far-reaching economic endeavours which were inspired by Your Imperial Majesty are and will continue to bear fruit and ultimately result in the evolution of an Iran holding its head high among the advanced nations of the world.

MOMENTOUS DEVELOPMENTS

India too has gone through momentous developments. The people of India have, proved that they cherish their liberty above

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everything else. After the massive mandate which our people have given to the present government, a great responsibility rests upon our shoulders. We are bending our energies and applying all our strength for quickening the pace of progress in the country and to give material content to our political liberty. In this achievement we recognise the value of assistance and co-operation which we have received from Iran under the personal interest and direction of Your Imperial Majesty.

Regrettably, the world today continues to present a disconcerting picture of contrasts and disparities. This is the gravest threat to international peace and security as affluence and deprivation cannot co-exist, without. inviting questioning, discontent and

frustration. The gulf between the haves and have-nots must be bridged if we wish this planet to remain peaceful and stable. It is, therefore, the duty of all of us to ensure that we make this planet a better place for succeeding generations through progressive elimination of disparities and want and achievement of all-round and accelerated progress of the under-developed world. Each of us has his own role to play according to its capacity and capability. It is only through collective efforts that we will be able to succeed. In this context, we would like to pay a tribute to Your Imperial Majesty's own efforts by helping to undertake ventures of common benefits on the basis of bilateralism

Your Imperial Majesty has crusaded for the removal of barriers restricting the flow of trade, commerce and communications between developed and developing countries. Your effort for mitigating the present world economic situation is a measure of your statesmanship as well as of your deep understanding of the complementarity of the economic forces of the world. I am firmly of the view that both our countries can play a significant role in broadening the trend for greater harmony and understanding between the North and South.

LIMITLESS COOPERATION

Between our two countries, the possibilities of cooperation are virtually limitless. We are happy to observe that many of the projects envisaged by our governments earlier are now taking concrete shape. Their full realisation will certainly generate a momentum in the industrial, economic and technological fields to the mutual benefit of the two countries. In this context, the Indo-Iran Joint Commission meeting held in New Delhi in September 1977, proved fruitful and has opened up new vistas for cooperation which must be followed up with expedition and determination. My Government is convinced that a constructive relationship based on political understanding and enriched with economic cooperation will make for real stability and lasting tranquillity in our region. Inspired by the same liberalism of ideas,

Your Imperial Majesty has been endeavouring to broaden the field of cooperation geographically and to include in that field other countries closely linked with the compulsion of physical situation. India fully shares your concept in this field and faith in the fulfilment of that concept.

It is our hope that the policy of friendly cooperation which our two governments have been following will succeed in creating a better life for our peoples and would contribute to the emergence of a better world. We would like to believe that the world of conflict which cost so much in loss of life, property and opportunities consequential to the two wars which we have witnessed in our own life-time is left far behind and that we are progressing, albeit slowly but surely, towards the emergence of a world of harmony and peace, a world without fear, mutual suspicion and want, a world in which good neighbourliness abounds and the spirit of comradeship and fellow-feeling is all pervasive.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, may I request you to join me in a toast to the health and happiness of His Imperial Majesty Mohammad Reza Pahlavi Aryamehr, Shahanshah of Iran, and to Her Imperial Majesty, Farah Pahlavi, Shahbanou of Iran, to the abiding friendship between India and Iran.

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IRAN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Feb 01, 1978

Volume No

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IRAN

Shahanshah's Reply

Replying to the toast, the Shahanshah said:

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I am most grateful for your kind words about my country and myself Once again, on your kind invitation, I gladly find myself in the great Republic of India which for every Iranian, is a familiar and known land even if he had not come here. This is because in the history of several thousand years of relationship between our two countries. We cannot find even a few pages which do not talk of their historical, cultural and spiritual ties. If one wishes to cite as an example the historical relationship between any two countries and two nations, most probably it will be the relationship between Iran and India, which is evident not only in historical documents but is also reflected in the innumerable cultural, architectural, pictorial and philosophical remains and engravings within the context of poetry, literature and music. Even at present we can see it very conspicuously in our day-today, life.

CULTURAL HERITAGE OF INDIA

We have always highly respected the very rich cultural heritage of India. We believe that, especially in our world today, which due to astonishing technological. and industrial progress is facing an ever-increasing danger of lack of balance between material and spiritual aspects of our life, the ancient and very rich culture of India could be a source of inspiration in bringing about an equilibrium to such an imbalance.

When I speak of true cultural values of India, naturally I deem it a special duty to express my reverence for the great spiritual leader of India, Mahatma Gandhi, whose 30th year of martyrdom almost coincides with date. Obviously, such great cultural and spiritual values should be complemented by scientific and technological achievement in order to ensure the real welfare of mankind. This is being realised today in your great country.

While you are presently achieving a

tremendous scientific, technological, industrial and economic task, you are retaining and safeguarding the high and old cultural values. This is a fact that can be observed in all the current activities of your country.

The necessary factors required for this achievement, namely, knowledge, manpower and vast natural resources are at your disposal.

It is a source of pleasure for me to state that the fruitful cooperation between out' two countries in various fields such as industry, use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes, shipping, fisheries, oil, commerce and or other scientific and cultural ties is flourishing.

The Indo-Iranian Joint Commission for Economic, Commercial and Technical Cooperation is yet another example for furthering the scope of cooperation between our two countries. We hope this type of fruitful bilateral cooperation will not only get further enhanced in future but will also expand its geographical dimensions.

INDIAN OCEAN REGION

Concerning the Indian Ocean region, our basic views are identical. Both of us desire that the Indian Ocean region should be a zone of peace and tranquillity. Therefore, we strongly support the United Nations Resolution No. 2832.

Mr. President, your country which is usually cited as the largest democracy in the world is presently undergoing a great historical experience towards raising the standard of living of your great people. We as an old friend, wish your nation success in its march on the path of progress since this is the only realistical and logical way for any nation in this present turbulent world of ours.. That is why, we seek world peace and international understanding which is the only solution to achieve this goal.

I am sure, Mr. President, that your competence is a positive response to find an

echo in the hearts of the great people of India.

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IRAN INDIA USA

Date: Feb 01, 1978

Volume No

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IRAN

Iran-India Joint Communique

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on February 5, 1978 on the Iran-India joint communique:

At the invitation of the President of India, Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, His Imperial Majesty Mohammad Reza Pahlavi Aryamehr, the Shahanshah of Iran and Her Imperial Majesty Farah Pahlavi, the Shahbanou of Iran paid a State visit to India from February 2 to 5, 1978.

Their Imperial Majesties were accord a very warm and cordial welcome by the Government and the people of India during their stay. The Mayor and the citizens of Delhi held a civic reception in their honour at the historic Red Fort. The warm and spontaneous reception given to them is a manifestation of the growing amity between the two countries; the keen desire of the two peoples to deepen further the wide ranging cooperation between them in all fields and a testimony of the long and close historical and cultural ties that have bound them together over the centuries.

His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah Aryamehr held detailed discussions with Shri Morarji Desai, the Prime Minister of India, on important international issues and on matters of regional significance. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the progress of their bilateral relationship in economic and cultural fields and decided to explore further avenues for expanding bilateral cooperation between them.

The talks were held in an atmosphere of complete understanding and cordiality. confirming the close similarity of views of the two countries on international issues, regional problems and bilateral relations of India and Iran. They recognised that these relations are precious gifts of history and decided to establish two chairs, one at Tehran and the other at Delhi, to promote research and study of that history. The details of the project would be worked out and settled separately through appropriate discussions.

His Imperial Majesty and the Prime Minister reviewed the international situation and noted with satisfaction that the global trends towards relaxation of tensions and settlement of disputes through negotiations were continuing. They, however, observed with regret that there continue to exist tension and potential sources of conflict in certain areas of the world, such as, West Asia and Africa, which pose a threat to international accord and peace.

They reaffirmed their deep conviction that a peaceful and secure world order can be built only by strict adherence by all countries to the principles of the U.N. Charter, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, respect for their sovereignty and territorial integrity and the inadmissibility of the use of force for settlement of disputes between nations.

His Imperial Majesty and the Prime Minister stressed the urgent need for the speedy establishment of a new international economic order based on inter-dependence, equality and justice. They particularly stressed the need to reform the international trading system on these principles so as to bridge the gap between the industrialised and the developing countries which, if unattended to, would threaten the prospects of peace in

the whole world. With this object in view, the two leaders called upon the developed industrial nations to cooperate fully in the economic development of the developing countries by respecting the right of these countries to fair and equitable prices for their export commodities and to have access to advanced technology for their development. 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 to sustain the momentum of their development. They also stressed the full sovereign rights of all States with regard to their natural wealth and resources. They agreed that while retaining and safeguarding those rights, developing nations should stimulate cooperation among themselves to minimise their dependence on affluent countries and to maximise their own strength to deal with their own economic problems.

The two sides agreed on the necessity of achieving complete and universal disarmament specially nuclear disarmament under

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effective International control. While reviewing the question of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, His Imperial Majesty reiterated his Government's adherence to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Prime Minister of India. while recognising this position stressed that it was essential for the avoidance of proliferation that those who have developed nuclear technology for military purposes should set an example to others who were pursuing nuclear research and development for peaceful purposes through abandonment of underground tests, progressive reduction of nuclear armament, with a view to its ultimate elimination, and a complete ban on utilisation of research for non-peaceful purposes. Both sides have agreed to cooperate with each other for the development of nuclear science for peaceful purposes.

The two sides reaffirmed the urgent necessity for a peaceful solution of the problem in the Middle East on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions No. 242 and 338. They emphasized that a just settlement

of the problem was possible only on the basis of total withdrawal of Israel from Arab territories occupied by it and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The two sides reviewed the grave situation in the Southern part of Africa resulting from the policies of racial discrimination and apartheid being followed by the minority regimes in this region. They reaffirmed their solidarity with the people of Southern Africa in their just struggle against the forces of racialism, colonialism and exploitation. They pledged their support to the people of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa in their just struggle. They hoped that the last vesties of colonialism and racial discrimination in every form would be ended without delay.

The two sides discussed developments in the Indian Ocean region. They reiterated their support for the declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, free from tension and great power rivalry. The two sides further agreed that peace and stability in the area should be secured through cooperative efforts of the countries in the region.

The Prime Minister of India explained that further progress has been made in the normalisation of relations among the countries of the sub-continent. His Imperial Majesty welcomed these developments. The two leaders reiterated their conviction that success of such efforts to solve bilateral problems through negotiations which has resulted in the lessening of tension in the region should lead to an era of friendship and fruitful cooperation between the countries in the sub-continent thus contributing to the stability of the region and peace in the world. The Prime Minister of India appreciated the efforts of His Imperial Majesty to promote understanding between these countries.

The two sides took note of the recent trends towards increased economic and technical cooperation amongst developing countries as a collective strategy for development in order to secure the optimum utilisation of their industrial. scientific and technological capabilities and resources. They felt that

such cooperation should be based on the respect for the sovereignty and equality of the countries concerned as well as the principles of equity and common benefit. In this context. His Imperial Majesty and the Prime Minister discussed the need for greater economic cooperation between the countries in the region. They believed that the imperatives of history and geography, the sharing of common traditions and culture and the aspirations of the people of the region point to the indispensibility of cooperation among the governments of the region in order to bring greater prosperity to their peoples. Such cooperation could. in the initial stages, take the form of identification of areas of common interest which would contribute to the wellbeing of the peoples of the participating countries and benefit the economies of all participants. It could include cooperation in the fields of cultural exchange, trade policy, industrial and technological collaboration and mutual assistance in agricultural, transport, tourism and communications. Such cooperation would strengthen the economic links between the participating countries of the region, and would make an effective contribution to the establishment of a new international economic order. The two leaders decided to hold further consultation with each other to work out the ways in which these ideas can be given concrete shape.

His Imperial Majesty and the Prime Minister reiterated their desire to give priority to forging closer and deeper bilateral links between the two countries. They noted. with satisfaction that a number of agreements in the economic, technical, industrial and cul-

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tural fields have been concluded and were at various stages of implementation. The deliberation of the last session of the Indo-Iranian Joint Commission had identified new areas of cooperation.

In order to participate in or finance approved projects such as the Alumina Project for the Eastern Coast deposits of bauxite, paper and pulp Factory for Tripura and the second stage of Rajasthan Canal, His Imperial Majesty offered to make available addi-

tional crude oil supplies annually at OPEC price on credit terms or lumpsum, payment, as may be suitable. The rupee equivalent of these instalments or the lumpsum as the case may be, would be funded in India as required, whether for investment or expenditure or could be used to finance the approved projects. The Prime Minister of India accepted the offer and thanked His Imperial Majesty for it.

In other areas the two sides felt that the plans for economic development of the two countries provided an excellent opportunity for mutually beneficial cooperation in accordance with their respective capabilities. Some of the areas in which such cooperation could take place are, rural electrification, generation and transmission of power, development of railways, rehabilitation of tracks, construction of railway lines, consultancy services, technical assistance, supply of railway equipment and construction materials and participation in the construction of industrial estates, new townships, housing colonies, ship-building, repair of ships etc.

The two sides agreed that a special joint sub-committee on petrochemicals should be constituted for pursuing possibilities of bilateral cooperation in this field.

His Imperial Majesty and the Prime Minister stressed the need for greater cooperation between the two Governments in the cultural field, taking advantage of the long history of close cultural inter-action between the two countries. The Government of India have agreed to assist in an exhibition of Indian art and culture ranging from ancient to present times, which the Iranian Centre for Study of Civilisation is proposing to organise in Iran in 1980. The two sides felt that continuous contacts and exchange of visits at different levels between the two countries have proved useful in strengthening the relations between the two countries and should be maintained.

His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah Aryamehr and Her Imperial Majesty the Shahbanou expressed their deep appreciation for the warm and friendly welcome extended to them and to the members of their party by the Government and people of India. The Prime Minister of India assured Their Imperial Majesties of the intense desire on the part of the people of India to forge even closer bonds between the two countries and to achieve as wide a field of cooperation as possible both among themselves and, through joint ventures, in other countries.

His Imperial Majesty extended a cordial invitation to the President of India to visit Iran at a mutually convenient time. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

IRAN INDIA USA ISRAEL NAMIBIA SOUTH AFRICA MALI

Date: Feb 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

IRAQ

E. P. I. Completes Large Training Centre in Iraq

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on February 13, 1978 on the Engineering Projects (India) Ltd. completing a training centre project in Iraq:

The Engineering Projects (India) Limited, a public enterprise under the Ministry of Industry, has successfully completed one of the largest training centre projects in Iraq in record time of 20 months and has earned foreign exchange of Rs. 6.60 crores for India.

The project was inaugurated by Mr. Tahayasin Rasnadhan, Iraqi Minister for

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Housing and Member of the Revolutionary Command Council of Iraq.

The total value of the project was over Rs. 10 crores. The E.P.I. has set up this project on a turn-key basis, from concept to commissioning. EPI's scope included providing training know-how, design and engineering, civil, electrical and air-conditioning, procurement, supply, delivery, inspection, erection, testing and commissioning of all the equipment required for the training centre.

A total of 7,822 different varieties of basic machines and components have been supplied for this project, which includes 95 categories of machines that were not exported hitherto.

With the completion of this project successfully, EPI has etsablished itself as a leading contracting companies in West Asia. The company has in hand contracts worth over Rs. 600 erores in India and abroad and is poised for rapid growth.

IRAQ INDIA USA

Date: Feb 01, 1978

Volume No

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LIBERIA

15-Member Delegation Visits India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on the visit of a 15-member Liberian delegation:

A high level 15-member delegation led by Planning Minister of Liberia, Mr. D. Franklin Neal, visited India from February 14 to 23, 1978 in pursuance of the process of active cooperation initiated at the discussions between the Foreign Ministers of India and Liberia in April 1977 in New Delhi. During their stay in the country they called on Ministers of Finance, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Steel & Mines and Agriculture & Irrigation.

The delegation held talks with important public sector undertakings and also visited some of our industrial establishments in Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Bokaro Steel Plant, Durgapur, Bhakra Nangal, Bombay, Poona, Jagadhri, Modinagar and Calcutta. The Liberian delegation held talks with Prof. D. T. Lakdawala, Deputy Chairman and other senior officials of the Planning Commission on February 15, 1978.

TALKS WITH LAKDAWALA

Talking about the 20-years of planning in India, Mr. Neal said that Liberia had used Indian plans as a model for its first four-year Plan which started in 1976. Mr. Neal said that in the First Plan of Liberia the emphasis was on the development of infrastructure and rural development. In the Second Plan which would start in 1980, the Liberian government would like to lay emphasis on industrialisation and introduction of intermediate technology. For this, Mr. Neal said, Liberia looked forward to cooperation and help from India for providing consultancy services in engineering and intermediate technological fields and training facilities for manpower. Mr. Neal also showed keen interest in inviting Indian industrialists for setting up industries in Liberia. He said that his government would be glad to give the necessary encouragement and incentives to such industrial concerns.

Recounting India's experiences in planning, Prof. Lakdawala said that there were areas like industry, power, manpower training where India had done very well during the past 20 years of Planned growth. He said that there was scope for profitable interchange of ideas in the fields of rural development and planning of infrastructural growth.

Liberia asked for India's assistance in the preparation of an integrated plan for tourism development in that country. The request for Indian assistance was made during the discussions which the Liberian delegation had with senior officials of the Tourism and Civil Aviation Ministry in New Delhi on February 16, 1978. Mr. Neal said that tourism required certain standard such as in hotel management movement of tourists and reception at airports. India which had attained a high degree of excellence in these fields could help a great deal in building up tourism infrastructure in his country. He wanted Indian experts team to visit Liberia to draw up a plan for systematic development of tourism. He also suggested that India and Liberia should explore the possibility of having an air service between the two countries.

Shri C. B. Jain, Director General of Tourism assured the Liberian delegation that India would be too willing to assist Liberia in developing tourist facilities in that country. He said that besides help in drawing up a plan, India could provide training facilities for Liberian personnel. The India Tourism Development Corporation had developed expertise in hotel management, catering, transport and production of publicity material. This could profitably be utilised by Liberia.

The delegation called on the Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, Shri Surjit Singh Barnala on February 21, 1978. They discussed matters of mutual interest in the field of agriculture, agricultural research and extension services. Mr. Neal in his talks suggested establishing close contacts with an Agricultural Institution for the purpose of exchange of technical research, training and other mutually beneficial programmes which could help improve and develop agriculture in his country. He also suggested the visit of an Indian technical team to his country to assess the overall research needs of his country and suggest plan for improvement.

LIBERIA INDIA USA LATVIA

Date: Feb 01, 1978

Volume No

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LIBYA

India-Libya Cooperation in Civil Aviation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on February 22, 1978 on civil aviation talks between India and Libya:

Possibilities of further cooperation between India and Libya in the field of civil aviation were discussed in New Delhi on February 22, 1978 when the Chief of Civil Aviation of Libya Mr. Marie Mohammed Abuzakuk, called on the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation Shri Purushottam Kaushik.

Mr. Abuzakuk said that they were fully satisfied with the progress of work on the Rs. 42 crore Ghat Airport project in Libya being executed by the International Airports Authority of India. He said in spite of the initial difficulties like climate and lack of proper transport facilities, IAAI had kept to the schedule and would be finishing the work by the end of this year. He hoped that there would be more opportunities of cooperation with the Indian Government in development of civil aviation in Libya.

Besides the Ghat Airport project, the IAAI has submitted proposals for upgrading runways of six airports in Libya for Libyan Airways.

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LIBYA INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM PERU

Date: Feb 01, 1978

Volume No

MONGOLIA

Shri Vajpayee's Speech at Dinner in Honour of H.E. Mr. Dugersuren

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on February 9, 1978 of the speech by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, at a dinner in honour of H.E. Mr. Mangalyn Dugersuren, Foreign Minister of the Mongolian People's Republic:

Your Excellency Mr. Mangalyn Dugersuren and friends,

It gives me great happiness to welcome Your Excellency and our friends from the Mongolian People's Republic here this evening. I recall with warmth our meeting at New York during the last session of the U.N. General Assembly and the benefit of the exchange of views with Your Excellency. I am very glad that the invitation to visit India, which I had the personal pleasure of extending to Your Excellency, has come to fruition with your visit now.

Your Excellency, you are no stranger to India. You have distinguished yourself in India as the Ambassador of the Mongolian People's Republic from 1958 to 1962. As such you are fully familiar with the happenings of those years, which have significance, not only for India and Mongolia, but for the whole world. The events of those years brought in their wake consequences which' have had far-reaching implications for international relations.

While change is the inevitable law of nature, transcending ideologies and past perceptions and while the world environment of today is so different from the decades of late '50s and '60s, we can justifiably claim that non-alignment has, by its very consistency and rationale, provide the basis for the forces of detente, cooperation, mutual accommoda-

tion and constructive co-existence coming together. Our experience over the last 30 years has served to underline the basic correctness and continuing validity of non-alignment. It is a matter of profound satisfaction to us that the Mogolian People's Republic has throughout understood and appreciated our policies, has extended support and sympathy in our difficulties and, equally rejoiced in our successes.

In the fifteen years since Your Excellency left India, you would have found that our people have taken some significant strides in the direction of economic, scientific, technological and social progress. We are fully conscious that we have a very long road to traverse to ensure to our vast population a minimum standard of economic security and well being. Despite this, we feel that our strength is in the stability and wisdom of our society and the wide spectrum of our economic and technical achievements.

RE-ASSERTION BY PEOPLE OF INDIA

The recent re-assertion by the people of India of their abiding faith in our system of Government, is an event of profound magnitude. In carrying the onerous mandate given to our new Government. I and my colleagues are fortified with the knowledge that our people have enormous resources of inner strength - political, economic and social.

In our approach to foreign affairs, what we would continue to envision and contribute to is the strengthening of an international community, of equal and sovereign nations, enriching each other with their national assets, economic, scientific and technological achievements, as well as with their rich cultures and heritage. While following the policy of beneficial bilateralism with all countries, we have attached priority to improving relations between India and her immediate neighbours. In this spirit, our attempt is to forge closer ties of friendship, remove past misunderstandings and explore fresh areas of mutually advantageous cooperation in the region.

ANCIENT LANDS

India and Mongolia are ancient lands of the ancient people of Asia. The history of cultural collaboration between India and the Mongols is most fascinating and unique and is as old as the history of the spread of Indian culture and ideas into Central Asia and

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Siberia. We in India consider the Mongol veneration of Sanskrit, a matter of special privilege. We hold the people of Mongolia in high esteem for preserving in translation as well as in manuscripts a vast collection of our precious Sanskrit texts on our philosophy, poetics, logic and astronomy lost by us over the centuries. This material is of unique value in the understanding of our ancient culture as well as in the reconstruction of our ancient history - the history of our literature, the history of our system of medicine and the history of our philosophy. In modern times too, many Mongols visited India - the holy land of Buddhism. For instance, Agvan Balden and Agvan Dorjiev. Their accounts are of special importance in respect of the social conditions in our country.

Relations between India and Mongolia have been traditionally close and cordial. Though our two countries are separated by great physical distance, this has not prevented us from sharing perception regarding the fast-changing international situation. Since the stationing of resident missions in each others' country, our constructive cooperation in the field of trade, culture and scientific exchange has greatly increased.

During the course of Your Excellency's visit to India, our hopes to intensify these exchanges further would find concrete shape with the signing of the two Agreements between our two countries on trade and cultural and scientific exchanges. It is also a matter of satisfaction to us that in the various international organisations and in the United Nations, our two delegations keep in close contact and cooperate in the spirit of the hopes and ideals which our two countries cherish.

We in India rejoice in the political, economic, social and scientific progress of the Mongolian People's Republic under the leadership of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party founded by Sukhe Baator. Over the years your country has brought about a transformation from a purely agrariar society to a modern agrarian industrial state which plays a very constructive role in international councils.

Indo-Mongolian relations serve as a shining example of how two Asian countries with different social and political systems can join hands in the quest for an equitable and just international order in the search for peace, harmony and wider cooperation.

I would now like to propose a toast to the health of the Chairman of the Presidium of the Great People's Khural of the Mongolian People's Republic, His Excellency Mr. Tsedenbal, to the health of the Chairman of the Council of Minister of the Mongolian People's Republic, His Excellency Mr. J. Bathmunkh; to the health of our honoured guest, the Foreign Minister of Mongolian People's Republic, His Excellency Mr. Dugersuren; to the health of the members of his party; to the further growth of the warm and friendly relations between the Government and peoples of India and the Mongolian People's Republic; and to the prosperity and well being of the peoples of the Mongolian People's Republic.

MONGOLIA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC UNITED KINGDOM

Date: Feb 01, 1978

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MONGOLIA

H.E. Mr. Dugersuren's Reply

Replying to the toast, H.E. Mr. Dugersuren said:

Your Excellency Mr. Minister of External Affairs, Esteemed Cabinet Members of the Government of India, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Permit me first of all to express my deep gratitude to Your Excellency and Your Government for the kind invitation to pay an official visit to your great country, and for the warm and cordial welcome and hospitality extended to me and the members of my party.

We feel very much honoured to have this opportunity of visiting India, this ancient cradle of civilisation and a great peace-loving nation with which my country, Mongolia, enjoys long-standing ties of friendship.

India celebrated not long ago the 30th anniversary of its independence and very recently - the Republic day. These years, your great people have scored impressive

achievements in various fields of life. What we have seen here, especially the Beas-Sutlej Multi-purpose Project and Indian Engineering Trade Fair vividly demonstrate the magnitude of India's economic progress and technological skill, and the determination of her people to turn their country into an advanced society.

I wish to say here that we in Mongolia sincerely rejoice at the successes accomplished by the people of India in further strengthening their national independence and in attaining continued economic progress.

PEACE-LOVING FOREIGN POLICY OF INDIA

The Government and people of Mongolia also highly appreciate the peace-loving foreign policy of India, its valuable contribution to the cause of peace, national independence and social progress of peoples. This policy has won a high reputation for India in the international arena

Excellency, Mongolia and India are peace-loving nations. Our two countries are committed to the cause of international detente, universal peace and security.

Detente should be supported and enhanced by effective measures for stopping the arms race, for bringing about real disarmament, nuclear disarmament in the first place. It should be strengthened also by developing the mutually advantageous and equitable cooperation among nations.

These are, as we see, the two powerful factors which could build a solid material basis for lasting peace on the globe.

It is our considered view that to consolidate world peace and security all international disputes should be settled by negotiations, and renunciation of the use of force must become an established rule if international behaviour for all States. In this very connection I should like to express my Government's view that attempts by the imperialist and other reactionary forces to stifle the national liberation movements of peoples and to check progressive developments in the newly emerged States not only violate the right of peoples to freedom and self-determination but also pose a grave threat to international peace and security.

SECURITY ON ASIAN CONTINENT

Mongolia and India are vitally interested in strengthening the peace and security on our Asian continent. I am of the veiw that broadening in every way contacts between Asian countries and exchange views and ideas on matters of common, interest are of paramount importance for the strengthening of mutual understanding and trust among the peoples and States of Asia. Division and distrust lead nowhere but to confrontations and conflicts. Therefore it seems incumbent upon all) countries of Asia to work together and to promote mutual understanding if it is to become a continent of lasting peace and security.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the friendly relations between Mongolia and India are deve-

loping successfully year by year on the basis of the principles of Mongolo-Indian Joint Declaration of 1973 which was signed during the memorable visit of our leader Comrade Yu. Tsedenbal to India.

It is a matter of gratification that the cultural contacts between our two countries have been progressing in a most satisfactory manner. The new cultural agreement, which will be signed during this visit, reflects the advanced stage of our exchanges in this field. We hope that the new trade agreement signed today would also give a new impetus to the trade and economic relations between the two countries.

As Your Excellency quite rightly mentioned here, Mongolia and India, despite their different socio-political systems, have been working together in the search for durable peace and security, and for equitable and just international cooperation.

My colleagues and I are confident that the constructive and useful talks with Your Excellency and also the conversations we have had with the leaders and other dignitaries of India will surely promote the further strengthening of the friendly relations and cooperation between our two countries.

In conclusion, while expressing to Your Excellency our grateful thanks for the warmth of your friendly feelings as well as for the kind words addressed to my country and people, may I offer a toast to the good health of H.E. Mr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, President of India and H.E. Mr. Morarji

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Desai, Prime Minister of India; to the health of our esteemed host, the External Affairs Minister of the Republic of India, H.E. Mr. A. B. Vajpayee; to the health of all Indian friends present here; to the further development of the friendly relations between the Mongolian People's Republic and the Republic of India; to peace and security in Asia and the world over; and to the great Indian people and to its progress and prosperity.

Date: Feb 01, 1978

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MONGOLIA

India and Mongolia Sign New Trade Agreement

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on February 8, 1978 on the signing of a new trade agreement between India and Mongolia:

A new trade agreement between India and Mongolia will come into force on February 14, 1978. The agreement was signed, in New Delhi on February 8, 1978 by Shri Mohan Dharia, Union Minister for Commerce, Civil Supplies & Cooperation, on behalf of India and by Mr.. Mangalyn Dugersuren, Minister for Foreign Affairs on behalf of the Mongolian People's Republic. This replaces the Trade and Payments Agreement concluded between the two countries on February 13, 1968.

Under the new agreement, the two countries shall accord each other most-favoured-nation treatment in all matters relating to trade. It has also been decided that all payments between the two countries will be effected in freely convertible currency.

The agreement will be valid for a period of five years with provision of automatic extension by one year at a time unless either Contracting Party has given a notice in writing three months before the expiry of the said period of its intention to terminate the agreement. There will be mutual consultations with each other as and when necessary for facilitating the implementation of the agreement.

The conclusion of the agreement was the result of negotiations conducted between the Indian delegation led by Shri Mahesh Prasad, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and the Mongolian delegation led by Mr. Buyantyn Dastseren, Ambassador of Mongolian People's Republic in India. The negotiations were conducted in a warm and friendly atmosphere and both the delegation expressed their keen desire to improve and maximise the trade between the two countries.

MONGOLIA INDIA USA

Date: Feb 01, 1978

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MONGOLIA

New Cultural Agreement between India and Mongolia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on February 9, 1978 on the new cultural agreement between India and Mongolia:

A new cultural agreement to include cooperation in the scientific, public health, agricultural and mass media fields, besides educational and cultural activities was signed in New Delhi on February 9, 1978 between India and the Mongolian People's Republic.

The Union Minister for Education, Social Welfare and Culture, Dr. P. C. Chunder, and the Mongolian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mangalyn Dugersuren, signed the agreement on behalf of the two countries. Today's agreement replaces the one signed in 1961.

Under the new agreement, both the countries will promote exchange, among

others, of scientists, teachers and students, medical practitioners, journalists, writers and sportsmen.

In addition to arranging visits of artistes and cultural troupes, film festivals and photo and art exhibitions will be arranged in each other's country.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Chunder hoped the agreement would further help strengthen relations between the two countries. He said that several Indian ancient works, which were no longer available in India, had been translated into the Mongolian language. It would be possible to get them back now through these books.

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Date: Feb 01, 1978

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MONGOLIA

Joint Communique

The following is the text of press release issued in New Delhi on February 10, 1978, on the joint communique on the visit to the Republic of India of His Excellency Mr. M. Dugersuren, the Minister of Foriegn Affairs of the Mongolian People's Republic:

At the invitation of the Minister for External Affairs of the Republic of India Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, His Excellency Mr. Mangalyn Dugersuren, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Mongolian People's Republic, paid an official and friendly visit to India from February 6-10, 1978.

The Foreign Minister of the Mongolian People's Republic called on His Excellency Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy, President of the Republic of India and conveyed to him a message from His Excellency Mr. Yumjagyn Tsendenbal, Chairman of the Presidium of the Great People's Khural of Mongolian People's Republic.

The Foreign Minister of the Mongolian People's Republic called on His Excellency Shri Morarji Desai, Prime Minister of the Republic of India and conveyed to him an official invitation from His Excellency Mr. Jambyl Batmunkh, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Mongolian People's Republic to the Prime Minister of India to visit Mongolia at a mutually convenient time. His Excellency the Prime Minister of India accepted the kind invitation.

During their stay in India, the Foreign Minister of the Mongolian People's Republic and his party visited the Beas-Sutlej link, a multi-purpose river project in Himachal Pradesh and also visited Chandigarh. At Chandigarh, His Excellency the Foreign Minister was the guest of honour at a dinner hosted by the Ministers of the Government of Punjab.

The Foreign Minister of the Mongolian People's Republic and the Minister of External Affars of the Republic of India held two rounds of talks during which they exchanged views on bilateral relations as well as on current international issues of mutual interest. The talks were held in an atmosphere of friendship, cordiality and complete mutual understanding. The two sides noted with deep satisfaction the close similarity of approach of the two sides on various issues of international concern.

The two Foreign Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the continuing fruitful development of relations of friendship and cooperation between Mongolia and India. They reaffirmed the determination of their Governments to further strengthen and expand the cultural, trade, political and other ties between the two countries in the spirit and on the basis of principles embodied in

the Joint Declaration issued in 1973 at the time of the visit to India of His Excellency Mr. Yumjagyn Tsendenbal. As a manifestation of this desire the two Foreign Ministers welcomed the signing of the India-Mongolian Trade Agreement by the Foreign Minister of the Mongolian People's Republic and the Commerce Minister of India and the signing of the Cultural and Scientific Agreement by the Foreign Minister and the Minister of Education, Social Welfare and Culture of India.

The Foreign Minister of the Mongolian People's Republic informed the Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India of the achievements recorded by the Mongolian people in their economic and cultural development and also acquainted him with the activities of the Mongolian People's Republic in the field of foreign policy. The Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India expressed his Government's deep appreciation of the successes achieved by the Mongolian people under the leadership of the Government of the Mongolian People's Republic in social and economic development.

The Foreign Minister of India informed the Foreign Minister of the Mongolian People's Republic about developments in India leading to the formation of the new Government on the mandate of the Indian people and the political, social and economic programmes of the Government of India. He also explained the various measures taken by the Government of India to develop the economy and for the improvement of the living standards of the Indian people.

Reviewing the international situation the two Foreign Ministers stressed the need for preserving consolidating and spreading the process of detente to all parts of the

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world. In this connection the two sides recognised that mutually beneficial cooperation among Asian states must be developed and extended in order to ensure lasting peace and stability on the Continent. To this end relations between states should be developed on the basis of generally recognised principles

of international relations such 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 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 Foreign Ministers noted with satisfaction that steps towards solving differences through bilateral negotiations between the countries of the region had led to significant improvements in the climate of good neighbourliness and expressed their confidence that further steps towards promoting beneficial co-operation would make a useful contribution towards peace and stability in the region. The Mongolian Foreign Minister appreciated the constructive role that India plays in this respect.

The two Foreign Ministers noted the important role played by non-aligned nations in promoting international peace and cooperation.

The two Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their support for the establishment of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and called upon all the parties concerned to constructively cooperate in achieving this objective.

The two Foreign Ministers felt that situation in West Asia continued to pose a serious threat to world peace. They reaffirmed the necessity of urgently moving towards a just settlement of the problem on the basis (if total withdrawal of Israel from all the territories occupied by it since 1967 and the restoration of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people. The two Foreign Ministers condemned Israeli policy and practice in the occupied territories. They considered such a policy is a serious violation of the Charter of the United Nations as well as a grave threat to peace.

The two Foreign Ministers stressed the need for creating conditions that would facilitate the peaceful reunification of Korea in confirmity with the aspirations and interests of the Korean people and the establishment of lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula,

The two Foreign Ministers expressed serious concern over the continuing arms race with its arsenal of weapons of mass destruction. Both Mongolia and India stood for general and complete disarmament, including nuclear disarmament, and for the realization without delay of concrete measures in this field. The two sides stressed the urgency of early progress in genuine disarmament and the diversion of resources from the futile arms race to peaceful development and to meeting the needs, particularly, of developing countries. The two sides expressed the hope that the forthcoming special session of the U.N. General Assembly devoted to disarmament will significantly contribute to the cause of general and complete disarmament.

The two Foreign Ministers expressed their firm support for the early establishment of the new International Economic Order, on the basis of sovereign equality, equity and justice.

The two Foreign Ministers reiterated their firm support to the struggle of the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia for national liberation. They expressed the determination of their Governments and people to continue to lend full moral political and material support to the people of Zimbabwe. Namibia and South Africa in their struggle against the forces of colonialism, racial discrimination and apartheid.

The two sides reiterated their faith in purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter and reaffirmed their determination to contribute to the strengthening of the U.N.'s role and its effectiveness.

The two Ministers expressed confidence that the visit of the Mongolian Foreign Minister and the talks held and agreements signed during the visit would promote the further development of the long-standing friendly relations and cooperation between Mongolia and India.

The Foreign Minister of the Mongolian People's Republic expressed his deep grati-

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tude to the Government of India for the hospitality and warm welcome extended to him and to the members of his party. On behalf of the Government of Mongolian People's Republic, the Mongolian Foreign Minister

extended an invitation to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee the Minister for External Affairs of the Republic of India to pay an official visit to Mongolia. The invitation was accepted with thanks.

MONGOLIA INDIA USA PERU ISRAEL KOREA NAMIBIA ZIMBABWE SOUTH AFRICA

Date: Feb 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

MONGOLIA

Indo-Mongolian Protocol on Cooperation

The following is the, text of a press release issued in New Delhi on February 28, 1978 on the signing of a Protocol between India and Mongolia:

A protocol on cultural and scientific cooperation programme between India and the Mongolian People's Republic for the years 1978 to 1980 was signed in Ulan Bator on February 27, 1978 by the Indian Ambassador, Shri Y. R. Dhawan, and the Mongolian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. O. Khosbayar.

The programme Provides for exchanges between the two countries in the fields of education, art and culture, health, agriculture and science and technology.

Speaking on the occasion, the Mongolian Deputy Foreign Minister said that Mongolia hoped to benefit from the programme, which envisaged expansion of friendly cooperation in various fields between the two countries.

MONGOLIA INDIA USA

Date: Feb 01, 1978

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OMAN

Omani Health Minister meets Union Health Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on February 7, 1978 on the visit of the Minister of Health of Sultanate of Oman to India:

Dr. Mubarak Saleh Al-Khaduri, Minister of Health, Sultanate of Oman, met Shri Raj Narain, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, in New Delhi on February 7, 1978. Dr. Mubarak was accompanied by Dr. Abdul Hussain Jaffer, Director General of Pharmacy and Medical Stores, and Dr. Murtadha Jaffer, Director of Medical Services in the Sultanate of Oman.

The Omani Health Minister is on a week's visit to India on the invitation of the Union Health Minister.

Shri Raj Narain explained to the visiting Minister the new rural health scheme which was launched in the country on October 2 last year and the new Family Welfare

Programme with emphasis on maternity and child health services.

The Omani Health Minister apprised Shri Raj Narain of medical facilities and health infrastructure obtaining in his country. He made a special mention of the services rendered by the Indian doctors in Oman.

Paying his tribute to Mahatma Gandhi's impact on human relations, the Omani Health Minister said that the people of his country held in the same high esteem in which he is held the world over as an apostle of peace and nonviolence. "In fact, Gandhiji is a household name in Oman," added Dr. Mubarak.

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On this occasion, the Omani Health Minister presented a replica of his country's national emblem to Shri Raj Narain.

Earlier, during the day, the Omani Health Minister and his party visited the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences. He will also be visiting Institute of History of Medicine & Medical Research, Engineering & Trade Fair in Delhi, and Haffkine Institute at Bombay besides other engagements.

OMAN INDIA USA

Date: Feb 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Shri Vajpayee's Speech at Banquet Held in his Honour by Mr. Agha Shahi

Following is the text of the speech made by Minister for External Affairs. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee at the banquet hosted at Islamabad in his honour by Mr. Agha Shahi, Foreign Affairs Adviser to the Chief Martial Law Administrator:

Excellency and Friends,

I am indeed happy to be in Pakistan today. I am grateful to Your Excellency and the Government of Pakistan for having invited me to visit your country, and for making it possible for me and my delegation to be here. May I also thank Your Excellency for the warmth of the hospitality that you and your colleagues have extended to us? This elegant capital of yours is not only blessed by the beauteis of nature but is also a symbol of your culture and your new aspirations. Excellency, I am deeply conscious of the significance of this visit of mine to your capital. Exactly a year ago, my colleagues and I had just been released after 19 months of incarceration. Truthfully, I never thought that after 20 years on the Opposition Benches, the people of India would place the burdens of responsibility upon my shoulders. I little imagined that I would be coming to Pakistan on an official mission. I think I would not be wrong if I say that you probably expected even less that I would be placed in this role.

I will not disown the anguish which I have felt at the history of indo-Pakistani relations. But that was in the past. Today, I come here representing a new party and a new government, and what is more, I come with a new perspective and a new vision for the future of relations between India and Pakistan. As I told your Foreign Secretary when he came as a Special Envoy to New Delhi, after 30 years of independent existence, our two countries have reached a stage where we must put old suspicions behind us. For my part, I am truly convinced that neither India nor Pakistan can realise its full potential for progress, unless both countries, with full respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, march side-by-side and seek ways and means to forge meaningful and mutually beneficial cooperation as becomes two neighbours.

The first priority of our Governments

has to be to build a self-reliant economy to lift our people from the morass of want and lack of gainful fulfilment. Both of us have inherited a tradition of pluralism and toleration. We are amongst the largest developing countries in the world. Our respective peoples have shown the ability and diligence to modernise and adapt to our circumstances, the benefits of scientific and industrial technology. In suspicion of each other, we have been vulnerable to the play of international divisive politics. But, in cooperation and harmony, we can offer fellow developing countries the somewhat unique assets of our own experiences and talents.

NEW ERA OF UNDERSTANDING

Excellency, it was not a casual decision for me to visit Pakistan as an emissary of goodwill. I am not unaware that for about

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12 years none of my distinguished predecessors at the Cabinet level have visited Pakistan. I have come to Pakistan in the hope - I am tempted to say, the expectation - of being the harbinger of a new era of understanding and friendship between our countries. I would like to assure you, on behalf of our Government and people, that India would rejoice in the progress and prosperity of Pakistan.

Nearly two years ago, when India and Pakistan restored the severed links and reestablished diplomatic relations with each other, the world welcomed the decision. We can also derive satisfaction from the fact that the climate of goodwill generated by this normalisation was not allowed to suffer a setback during the past year which witnessed unprecedented and far-reaching internal changes in both our countries. This reflected the wisdom of statesmanship and the sobriety of our peoples. It showed, too, in both our countries that it was sterile to rejoice in each other's difficulties or be tempted to interfere in each other's internal affairs. Statesmanship demands from us that we set before ourselves a more positive purpose, a nobler vision of slowly and patiently striving to build bridges of neighbourly cooperation,

which may enable us to concentrate on the massive agenda of development and welfare of our peoples which we have before us.

The Janata Government has, through deliberate decision, given the highest priority to the task of strengthening our relations with Our neighbours. In this pursuit, I have visited Afghanistan, Bhutan, Burma and Nepal and came away heartened by the warmth of response from everyone of them. In the same spirit and through patient negotiations, we have concluded an agreement with Bangladesh on the Ganga waters issue which had bedevilled us for a quarter of a century. For the first time, our sub-continent is not one of the troubled areas of the world. Would not the nations of our subcontinent become an important factor in the ushering in of a new international economic order if as independent nations, they decide to cooperate with each other on a basis of equality and mutual benefit and thus realise the full constructive potential of the talents of their peoples and the resources of their fertile and rich lands? Excellency, I have come to Pakistan,

inspired by this vision. But, I am fully aware that it will require understanding to build the edifice of our, friendship. I recognise, too, that its foundations can only be laid in goodwill, realism, sensitivity and mutual respect for our sovereign national personalities. We can move forward only If we move in step. What we must not do is to step backwards and jeopardise the advances which we have made. I for one am hopeful and convinced that the people of our two countries, the peasants in the fields and the workers in the factories, and all those millions who have neither fields to till nor work for gainful earning - want to see peaceful and good neighbourly relations between us. Our people have brought home to me and others in public life in India and that they do not accept as inevitable the grim alternative of confrontation and conflict. This was vividly demonstrated to us when I recently saw the enthusiastic welcome accorded to your artists and scholars who, after a gap of so many vears, visited us. It also became plain, when our people, from all walks of life, joined to commemorate the birth centenary of the

founder of Pakistan not so long ago.

CULTURAL EXCHANGES

In a similar way, more recently, there was a deep and indeed extensive interest when we joined in the function held by your Embassy in New Delhi to honour the memory of the great poet and thinker, Allama Iqbal. We are aware of the special place he occupies in Pakistan's life as well as his universal appeal to the Family of Man. Indeed, many of us in India are devout votaries of his poetry and his message.

Let us move forward, as cautiously as we wish to, but without allowing little hurdles to obscure our vision. Let our people not be strangers to each other. Let your artists and ours, your poets and our own, our sportsmen and yours, get together. Visitors from India to Pakistan have gone back, touched by the warmth of their reception. And from our side, I am quite certain of the enthusiasm to see your experts and scientists, your scholars and thinkers. and your ordinary citizens in our midst. This would enable us to get to know each other better, as Indians and Pakistanis

In reminding ourselves that what matters is the urge to move ahead to a better future,

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I could do no better than recite from Allam Iqbal:

"Thaherta nahin karvan-i-wajud Ke har lahza taza hai Shan-i-Wajud. Samajhta hai tu raz hai zindagi Faqat zauq-i-parwaz hai zindagi. Bahut usne dekhe hain past-o-baland Safar usko manzil se barh kar pasand. Safar zindagi ke liye barg-o-saz Safar hai haqiqat hazar hai majaz".

(The Caravan of life never halts: At every moment life has a fresh visage. You think life to be a secret; But life is only the urge to keep moving. It has seen many ups and downs and loves movement more than rest; Movement is the essence of life. To move is reality; To stand is illusion).

While thanking Your Excellency and the Government of Pakistan once again for the cordiality with which you have welcomed me and my delegation, I hope the visit will be the beginning of many more exchanges between the leaders of your country and ours.

I would now request all of you to join me in drinking a toast to the health of His Excellency Mr. Fazal Elahi Chaudhry, the President of Pakistan, H.E. General Zia-ul-Haq, the Chife Martial Law Administrator, to my gracious host, H.E. Mr. Agha Shahi, to the happiness and prosperity of the people of Pakistan, and to the strengthening of good neighbourly relations between Pakistan and India.

PAKISTAN USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA PERU MALI AFGHANISTAN BHUTAN BURMA NEPAL BANGLADESH

Date: Feb 01, 1978

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PAKISTAN

Mr. Agha Shahi's Speech

Following is the speech by Mr. Agha Shahi, Adviser, Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan, at the banquet in honour of H.E. Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Foreign Minister of India, on February 6, 1978, at the Pakistan Foreign Office, Islamabad:

Excellency, Distinguished Members of the Indian Delegation, Ladies and Gentlemen, It gives me great pleasure to welcome in our midst this evening, His Excellency Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Foreign Minister of India and the members of his delegation. Your visit, Excellency, is not only an important occasion but is indicative of the progress we have made in our endeavour to normalise relations between our two countries. We earnestly hope that this visit will become a harbinger of better things to come.

Although this is Your Excellency's first visit to Pakistan in your capacity as Foreign Minister, we have had the privilege of an exchange of views with the Prime Minister of India and with you earlier on matters of common interest to our two countries. I might recall that in his meeting with Pakistan's Special Envoy last April, Prime Minister Desai had spoken of his desire to have permanent peace between the two countries going one step further than the durable peace mentioned in the Simla Agreement. In a subsequent meeting with the Pakistan Ambassador Mr. Desai had said that India was the bigger country and it was its responsibility to assure Pakistan and to convince it that it was completely safe. You, Mr. Foreign Minister, had in your meeting with the Special Envoy said that you wanted to go beyond normalisation and build a grand edifice of mutually cooperative relationship with Pakistan.

We have had an opportunity this morning to discuss a wide variety of subjects of bilateral and international interest. I believe we now have a greater comprehension of each other's point of view. These discussions and even more so your talk with the Head of the Interim Government, General Zia-ul-Haq have enabled us to establish a better atmosphere conducive to evolving and nurturing a tension-free relationship based on sovereign equality and non-interference in each other's internal Affairs.

I should like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to the distinguished journalists who have accompanied you on your visit of goodwill to Pakistan. General Zia-ul-Haq and I have had the pleasure of exchanging views with them frankly and freely.

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We have confidence in their objectivity and desire to promote greater understanding and a better climate of relations between our two countries.

Excellency, more than five years have elapsed since the Simla Agreement was signed. As a result of the step by step approach adopted by both sides, rail and air services have commenced, telecommunication and postal links have been restored and trade has been resumed. This progress in the process of normalisation of relations between our two countries has been brought about by enlightened statesmanship, goodwill and good sense. We are convinced that this process will be carried forward to its logical conclusion with the implementation of the only remaining provision of the Simla Agreement concerning the final settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. In our discussions this morning in which the subject figured, we felt encouraged by Your Excellency's constructive and statesman-like approach and your assurance that your Government will honour all the provisions of the Simla Agreement.

This in itself is a measure of progress which is most welcome and which augurs well for the future of the relationship between the two countries. We fervently believe that a just solution of the problem which has bedevilled relations between our two countries for far too long will usher in a new era of fruitful and harmonious relations which will not only be in accord with the aspirations of our two peoples but will open the path to wide cooperation in many fields.

Excellency, the history of our relations is indeed a sad story of mistrust and conflict. This was not the relationship that the founder of Pakistan had visualized. The Quaide-Azam. had said that we must live as equals and as brothers and friends. Our differences have over-shadowed, nay eclipsed, the many factors which can draw us closer. Let us seize the opportunities offered to us to further develop mutual understanding and trust by overcoming our differences in a just and honourable manner.

Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, may I now ask you to join me in drinking a toast

to the health of His Excellency Mr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, President of the Republic of India, to the prosperity and well-being of the people of India and to the health of our honoured guest, His Excellency Foreign Minister Vajpayee.

PAKISTAN INDIA MALI USA PERU CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Feb 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Shri Vajpayee's Statement at Press Conference in Islamabad

Following is the text of the opening remarks by the Minister of External Affairs at his press Conference at Islamabad on February 7, 1978:

Gentlemen.

I am happy to meet the members of the Press Corps in Islamabad. As one thinks of the lips and downs of Indo-Pakistan relationship, this is a historic visit. I have been greatly impressed by the warm cordiality of the reception which I have received. I find there was an appreciation of the Janata Government's desire to maintain good relations and improve them wherever possible between us and our neighbours. Amongst them Pakistan, for obvious reasons, has special importance. I mentioned to the Foreign Affairs Adviser that it is true India happens to be a big country but its approach is not of a big brother. We want to improve relations on the basis of equality, non-interference and goodwill. This clearly implies respect not only for the sovereignty of each country but the right of each country to determine its own political and social system. We believe that through the resolution of

problems and cooperation between us, we can accelerate the process towards the fulfilment of our developmental aspirations. Coexistence has to be on the basis of sovereignty. We recognise development and cooperation can only be with the consent of the countries concerned and with their acceptance that it would be of benefit to each one of them. Having visited other countries in our neighbourhood, and having made our desire clear from the very beginning that we want peace and friendship with Pakistan, I came here essentially as an emissary of goodwill. I had no package or specific items of agenda for this mission.

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In view of our history, it would be naive to deny that there are psychological problems which we have to recognise and face. Indeed, my attention was drawn to public opinion and some anxieties in the Press, about my visit and its purpose. Public opinion in India has also some anxieties about Indo-Pakistan relations. My own belief is that broad public opinion in both countries has welcomed the normalisation of our relations and the restoration of several links between us. You will be aware that one of the most heartening things was that during the process of our General Elections, relations with Pakistan never became an issue or a subject of controversy. In the year 1977 there was also a political change in Pakistan but the fact that despite political upheavals in both countries, the climate of Indo-Pakistan relations did not receive a setback is a tribute to the maturity of our two peoples. This encouraged me to undertake this mission of goodwill.

The discussions that I have had, have been marked by great cordiality. It covered bilateral relations and also the international issues such as the North-South dialogue, special session on disarmament on which we have a broad similarity of approach.

During these discussions the Pakistan side referred to the Simla Agreement and we assured them that the Janata Government stands by this Agreement.

The Agreement which clearly indicates that both countries are committed to abjure the use of force continues to provide the basis for our relationship.

The question of Kashmir came up in these discussions. Both sides stated their respective positions and both sides recalled that the Simla Agreement commits us to good neighbourliness and durable peace and to endeavour to prevent hostile propaganda against each other.

Though there was no agenda, our discussions have been fruitful and constructively motivated. On behalf of our Prime Minister I transmitted a letter to the Chief Martial Law Administrator which formally invited him to visit India. I am glad to say he accepted the invitation in principle. We noted there has been a significant improvement in our trade relations and recognised that It should and could grow in a balanced manner to mutual advantage and not to harm the economy of the other. The trade teams are to meet shortly, to review the agreement and to see how the two-way trade can develop in the future.

Both sides expressed the feeling that there should be a freer exchange of visit between the two countries. Visa procedures should be expedited and liberalised.

The Chief Martial Law Administrator has agreed that we should explore the possibilities for stationing journalists of the two countries in each other's capital. I would also like to thank him for inviting the Indian journalists accompanying me to stay on and tour Pakistan. It was also agreed that the procedures to make available the newspapers of the two countries should be facilitated.

We welcomed the current visit of the Pakistan Hockey team to India and we hope that such exchanges of sports teams will become a regular feature of relations between the two countries.

We also recognise that it would be useful from the point of view of economic development of the two countries if experts and

professionals have opportunities to meet their counterparts in the other country.

We also agreed to complete the process of exchanging the detenus between the two countries.

We have agreed to resume talks on the Salal Dam project from where they were left off in October 1976.

I have reason to believe that my visit here is in the spirit in which it was intended, as a gesture of goodwill towards a neighbour has been well worthwhile. Notwithstanding the difficulties which are a challenge to our wisdom, I believe, relations between Pakistan and India can continue to develop. The important thing is that we respect each other's personalities and aspirations. For our part I am convinced that good relations are in our separate and common interest, and in the interest of the region as a whole. In this quest, we have the good wishes of our peoples and the whole world.

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PAKISTAN USA INDIA MALI PERU

Date: Feb 01, 1978

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PAKISTAN

Shri Vajpayee's Speech in Parliament on His Goodwill Visit to Pakistan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on February 27, 1978 when the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee made the following statement in Parliament on his goodwill visit to Pakistan:

Ever since the Janata Party assumed

office last year, the major thrust of the Government of India's foreign policy has been towards fostering the development of friendliest possible relations between India and her neighbours. It was on the basis of this policy that I had earlier visited Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan and Burma. The same policy motivated my goodwill visit to Pakistan from February 6 to 8, 1978.

I went with no agenda for discussion. My intention, as an emissary of goodwill, was to make clear India's desire for a relationship of peace and friendship with Pakistan, on the basis of respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-interference in internal affairs and mutual benefit.

The past history of the relations between the two countries has created psychological problems which both sides have to recognise, to face and to attempt to resolve. I mentioned to Mr. Agha Shahi, Adviser on Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan, that while it is true that India happens to be a big country, we want to improve relations between India and Pakistan on the basis of equality, understanding and goodwill. This clearly implies respect not only for the sovereignty of each country but the right of each country to determine its own political and social system. One of the most heartening features of our general elections last year was the absence of any controversy over our relations with Pakistan. During 1977, there were far-reaching political changes in Pakistan also. The fact that despite political upheavals in both countries, the climate of Indo-Pakistan relations did not receive a setback is a tribute to the maturity of our two peoples. This encouraged me to undertake this mission of goodwill.

During my visit, I had discussions with Gen. Zia-ul-Haq, Chief of Army Staff and Chief Martial Law Administrator and Mr. Agha Shahi, Adviser on Foreign Affairs. Our Discussions were held in a very cordial atmosphere. They covered bilateral relations, and also international issues such as the North-South dialogue and the U.N. General Assembly's Special Session on Disarmament, on which we had a broad similarity of ap-

proach.

During our discussions, the Pakistan side referred to the Simla Agreement. We assured them that the Janata Government stands by this Agreement. In this context, the Pakistan side made a mention of Kashmir. Both of us stated our respective positions, while recalling that the Simla Agreement commits both countries to abjure use of force.

During my discussions with Gen. Zia, we noted that there has been a significant growth in our trade relations, and recognised that they should and could grow in a balanced manner to our mutual advantage. Trade teams of the two countries are to meet shortly to review the Trade Agreement of 1975, and to study how two-way trade can develop.

The two sides also had discussions on the need to facilitate a freer flow of people and information between the two countries. In this context, the Government of India are happy to note that there has been some exchange of artists, scholars and sportsmen. We were also happy to welcome Dr. Amir Mohammad, Adviser on Agriculture, Government of Pakistan on February 20, 1978. He is visiting a number of our projects during his stay in India. We hope that his visit will mark the beginning of exchanges in the field of science and technology, so that experts in both countries can learn from each other's experience.

During my discussions, it was also agreed that we should complete the process of exchanging detenus held in either country with utmost expedition. This is a humanitarian problem and we are interested in seeing it resolved as soon as possible.

Another point of agreement was that we would resume talks on the Salal Dam project from where they were left off in October, 1976. A delegation from Pakistan is expected to come here for this purpose

shortly. Dates will be fixed according to our mutual convenience.

On behalf of our Prime Minister, I transmitted a letter to the Chief Martial Law Administrator, formally inviting him to visit India. He accepted the invitation in principle.

Sir, there was widespread speculation in the press about my visit before it took place. My own belief is that public opinion in both countries has welcomed the normalisation of our relations and the restoration of the severed links. It is also my belief that there is a recognition in both countries that the pace in the development of our relations can and should be accelerated. We on our part are ready to go ahead. However, we recognise that such acceleration and further cooperation can be possible only with the consent of both the countries.

In conclusion, I would like to state that I am convinced that good relations between the two countries of the sub-continent are in our separate and common interest, and in the interest of the region as a whole. My visit to Pakistan was based on this conviction. I do not think I would be wrong if I say that the discussions I had with Pakistani leaders have led to a better understanding and have helped in the task of removing misapprehensions, promoting greater goodwill and better understanding between the two countries. With greater contact between the two peoples and the established Governments, there can grow a climate of trust and confidence in which problems can be solved and good neighbourliness can be patiently fostered. India stands ready to cooperate in the growth of such relations to the extent Pakistan is willing to go.

PAKISTAN INDIA USA AFGHANISTAN BHUTAN BURMA NEPAL PERU MALI

Date: Feb 01, 1978

Volume No

PAKISTAN

Exchange of Farm Technology Between India and Pakistan

The following is the text of the speech by Shri Surjit Singh Barnala, India's Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation at a dinner in New Delhi on February 23, 1978 which he hosted in honour of Dr. Amir Mohammad, Pakistan President's Adviser on Food and Agriculture:

It gives me great pleasure to have the privilege of welcoming you and Begum Mohammad in our midst.

Your Excellency's visit is historic for it is the first opportunity we have had, since the happy process of normalisation of relations between our two countries began, to receive a high dignitary from Pakistan. Following close on the visit of our Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to Pakistan, it is perhaps symptomatic of the common desire of the two Governments to build bridges of understanding and cooperation.

India seeks friendship with all. It is, indeed, the first priority of the Government of India to promote a relationship of cooperation and trust with our immediate neighbours. We have moved steadfastly in that direction with each of our neighbours and it remains our firm resolve to persevere in strengthening these relations further. Your Excellency's visit, therefore, assumes added importance and significance. It is also significant because of the fact that it underlines the desire of our two Governments to promote contacts and cooperation in the field of agriculture which is the mainstay of the life of the bulk of the people in both the countries.

Your Excellency will agree that we have covered much ground since the resumption of diplomatic relations. We have established

people-to-people contacts as well as transport and communication links. We have initiated cultural exchanges. In the wake of restoration of these broken links, high level visits, such as the visit of our Foreign Minister and Your Excellency's visit provide a positive basis on which we can build an edifice of genuine understanding, goodwill and cooperation which would certainly create the necessary conditions for lasting peace in the region.

FIELD OF AGRICULTURE

It is perhaps fitting that the first high level contact after re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries should be in the field of agriculture. Culti-

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vation of the land is the major source of living for people in India and Pakistan. In both countries, there are the problems of low production. And in both countries, there are encouraging signs of a people determined to work wonders by wedding the findings of science and technology to the mainstay of their livelihood

Conscious as we are in India of the central role that agriculture plays in the lives of our people, we have made a very determined effort to add to our traditional knowledge in this field, results of our own researches and the findings of others. We have gained much through our discussions with colleagues all over the world, but we have also been keenly conscious of the lacuna that has existed with the absence of similar contacts with Pakistan, a country with similar soil and topography, modes and manners. When you arrived in New Delhi on the 20th, you spoke of this lacuna in very specific terms. Our discussions over the past three days have helped us to explore ways and means of gradually instituting what should only be a natural exchange of ideas in a field vital to both India and Pakistan. We look forward to such exchanges in the belief that they can be of mutual benefit. We can learn from each other, we can caution each other against problems and mistakes we ourselves have committed. In this process, we can contribute to the developmental efforts not only in our own countries but also other countries in this region. While travelling through India, you will be seeing some of the projects that are a part of our national effort. My colleagues there are eager to exchange ideas with you and would be glad to hear your observations and suggestions. I hope and trust that you would find your tour interesting and useful.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would now like to propose a toast to the health' and well-being of His Excellency Fazal Elahi Chaudhry, President of Pakistan, His Excellency Dr. Amir Mohammad and Begum Mohammad, to the progress and prosperity of the people of Pakistan and to continuous growth of amity and understanding between India and Pakistan.

PAKISTAN INDIA LATVIA MALI USA

Date: Feb 01, 1978

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PAKISTAN

Speech by Dr. Amir Mohammad

Speech by Dr. Amir Mohammad, Pakistan President's Adviser on Food and Agriculture:

I am deeply touched by your warm words of welcome, Excellency, and the courtesy and hospitality extended to my wife and myself throughout our visit to your great country. The kindness shown to us reflects a spirit of goodwill which we fully reciprocate.

Excellency, history and geography have made India and Pakistan neighbours. There

can be no two views about the need to develop good neighbourly relations between our two countries, based on the principles of peaceful co-existence, so that we bring about not only an absence in tension, which has unfortunately hitherto marred our relations, but indeed promote cooperation in peaceful pursuits that would raise the living standards of our peoples. I am not a politician, but it does seem to me that the main challenge that our two countries face today is that of development. And poverty and disease and ignorance are our common enemies.

India and Pakistan can benefit from each other's experience in the field of agriculture because the physical and social conditions across the borders are to a large extent similar and so are our problems in developing the rural areas where the bulk of our people live. Such areas of common interest are: appropriate technology, efficient crop production, water management and a more rational use of our irrigation system, rural development, agricultural marketing and credit system, control of fungal disease of major field crops like the wheat rusts and insect damage to field crops on both sides of the border which can be controlled only by a thoroughly coordinated approach. To give another example, this year our sub-continent may be subjected to locust attacks because the locust populations are reported to be building up in Horn of Africa. This menace can be

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checked only by a joint effort of our two countries.

I have mentioned these examples only by way of illustration. Already, in my brief stay in your country, I have had the benefit of a useful exchange of views with your eminent scientists and other colleagues and I do hope that it will be possible to have such exchanges more frequently in the future.

Once again, Excellency, I wish to thank you for your kind and generous hospitality. Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I now, request you to join me in drinking a toast to the health and prosperity of His Excellency Mr. Neelam, Sanjiva Reddy, President of the Republic of India, to the health of His Excellency, Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala and Mrs. Barnala and to friendship between our two countries.

PAKISTAN USA INDIA LATVIA

Date: Feb 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

SRILANKA

Sri Lanka Thanks India for Feasibility Report

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on February 17, 1978 on the feasibility report on the Kotmale project:

India has prepared a feasibility report on the Kotmale project of the Mahaweli Ganga development plan of Sri Lanka.

The report was formally presented to Sri Lanka's Minister for Irrigation, Power and Highways, Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, in Colombo on February 15 by Shri O. P. Chadha, Chairman of the Water and Power Development Consultancy Services Limited (W.A.P.C.O.S). The High Commissioner for India, Shri Gurbachan Singh was present on the occasion.

Accepting the report, Mr. Dissanayake thanked the Government of India for the efforts they had put in preparing the report.

The Indian component of the expenditure incurred on the preparation of the feasibility report has been met by the Government of India under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme. The WAPCOS of India were assigned the

work.

The Kotmale project is an important component of the water resources development plan of the Mahaweli Ganga River Basin of Sri Lanka. It envisages the construction of a 352-foot high rock-fill dam with a capacity for storing 3,08,000 acre-feet of water across the Kotmale river.

The project includes building of tunnels and of an Underground power house with 150 MW installed capacity. Other benefits of the project would be enhanced power generation at other power plants, water for irrigation and incidental flood control.

INDIA SRI LANKA MALDIVES LATVIA CHAD USA

Date: Feb 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

SYRIA

Indo-Syrian Agreement on Technical Cooperation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on February 8, 1978 on the signing of an agreement for scientific and technical cooperation between India and Syria:

India and Syria have signed an agreement for scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries.

The agreement was formally initialled at a special ceremony held in Damascus on February 6 by the Syrian Minister of State for Planning, Dr. George Houraniegh, on be, half of the Government of Syria and the Indian Ambassador, Shri A. P. Venkateshwaran, for India.

Speaking on the occasion, the Syrian Minister of State expressed his Government's appreciation to India for according high priority to its economic and industrial relations with Syria. This was very gratifying, he said.

The two countries had earlier, during the visit to Syria of the Indian Minister of Industry, Shri George Fernandes, signed a protocol on technical and economic cooperation. In this connection, an Indian industrial delegation, led by Shri Naresh Chandra, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Heavy Industry is presently visiting Syria.

The Indian delegation, which included experts from various public sector organisations, had talks with Syrian officials regarding the implementation of the protocol.

The two sides have agreed for furthering cooperation in various specific sectors, including agro-industrial complexes, textile industries, housing, engineering industries, electricity, iron and steel, phosphate and oil.

SYRIA INDIA USA

Date: Feb 01, 1978

Volume No

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SYRIYA

Indo-Syrian Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on February 16, 1978 on the signing of an agreement between India and Syria:

India and Syria will exchange experts, technical and scientific personnel, conduct

joint research, and grant scholarships for specialised training. An agreement to this effect was signed in New Delhi on February 16, 1978 between the two countries by Shri George Fernandes, Minister of Industry and Mr. Shtewi Seifo, the Syrian Minister of Industry.

The agreement was concluded following detailed discussions with the Syrian delegation comprising Mr. Shtewi Seifo, Syrian Minister of Industry, Mr. Rassem Raslan, Deputy Minister (Engineering) and Mr. Mohammed Fares Ali Ahmed, Secretary, Ministry of Industry.

The agreement would give further momentum to the wide ranging cooperation between the two countries by providing essential linkages in deputation of experts, feasibility studies and implementation of projects in the priority sectors of economy.

The Syrian delegation which arrived here a week ago visited the Engineering Trade Fair; Hindustan Machine Tools, Bangalore; Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi; Bokaro Steel Ltd., and Engineering industries in Calcutta.

The visit of the delegation was in pursuance of the protocol signed between the Minister of Industry, Shri George Fernandes and the Syrian Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Mr. Jameel Shayya at Damascus on October 22, 1977. The protocol which represents an important and significant development of industrial and economic cooperation between the two countries referred to various industrial projects specified in discussions which Shri Fernandes had with the President of Syria, the Syrian Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, the Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and the Syrian Ministers for Railways and Transportation and Oil and Mineral Resources.

The follow-up action of the specified programmes of cooperation indicated in the protocol between the two countries has been effected expeditiously. A team of Oil and Natural Gas Commission is currently in Syria for concluding a service contract for

exploration of oil resources in the Palmyra region of Syria. An Indian delegation visited Syria in the second week of February, 1978 and concluded agreed implementation programmes for several projects in Syria.

These are:

AGRO-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEXES

Techno-economic feasibility studies will be conducted for setting up agro-industrial complexes in Syria and deputation of Indian personnel for the Syrian Food Processing Industry.

TEXTILE INDUSTRIES

Specialised experts would be provided from India for planning of textile industries

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and deputation of skilled workmen. Major Indian textile machinery manufacturers would cooperate in setting up third country projects. Indian expertise would also be provided for village weaving industries and for establishment of power looms. It has also been agreed to carry out feasibility studies for establishment of a composite textile mill in Syria.

HOUSING

High level technical knowhow would be provided by India in prefab housing technology as well as in the field of low cost housing.

ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES

India would assist in carrying out studies for hot rolling mill, expansion of the welded pipe factory and setting up of workshop tools factory.

ELECTRICITY

India would also assist Syria in setting up workshops for manufacture and galvanising of transmission towers, construction of plant for Sub-Stations and sharing of knowhow in rural electrification.

IRON AND STEEL

An expert Syrian delegation would visit India in the second half of 1978 for further negotiations in exports from India of iron and steel items and for development of the Iron & Steel Industry.

PHOSPHATE

Trial supplies are being negotiated from Syria for rock phosphate. India would assist in probing of Syrian phosphate ore reserves and in the beneficiation of leaner phosphate ore. A Syrian expert delegation would visit India for further negotiations.

The Syrian Minister of Industry conveyed his appreciation of the capabilities and capacities developed by India in the industrial field particularly in sectors relating to cement, steel, fertilisers, machine tools, civil construction, power generation, transmission and rural electrification and small-scale and rural-industries which were particularly relevant in promoting industial and economic cooperation between the two countries. He also appreciated the quick follow-up action taken after the signing of the protocol between the Union Minister of industry, Shri George Fernandes and the Syrian Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Mr. Jameel Shayya at Damascus in October 1977. As a result, cooperation is in progress for exploration of Syrian oil resources and for setting up several engineering, agro-based, metallurgical and mining industries in Syria.

SYRIA INDIA USA RUSSIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Feb 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

SYRIYA

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi an February 24, 1978 on the Indian-Syrian cultural agreement:

Syria has expressed its appreciation and thanks to India for the part being played by this country to the cause of the developing countries,

These tributes came in on the occasion of the signing of an "executive programme" for the years 1978 and 1979, under the cultural agreement existing between India and Syria. The Indian Ambassador to Damascus, Shri A. P. Venkateswaran and the Syrian Vice Minister of Education, Mr. Id Abdo, initialled the document in Damascus on February 23.

The 'executive programme' includes articles on cooperation between India and Syria in the fields of education, science, culture and arts, mass-media, sports and other cultural activities.

Speaking on the occasion, the Syrian Vice Minister of Education described India as a principled partner in the struggle of the developing countries towards development and advancement. The present agreement, he said, was the culmination of the efforts of the two countries towards still greater cooperation in cultural fields.

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SYRIA INDIA USA

Date: Feb 01, 1978

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UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Soviet Minister of Hi her Education Calls on Dr. Chunder

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on February 2, 1978 when the Soviet Minister of Higher Education called on Dr. P. C. Chunder, Minister of Education:

The question of undertaking joint scientific research projects by the Indian and Soviet universities came up for discussion when the Soviet Minister of Higher and Specialised Secondary Education, Prof. V. P. Elyutin, called on the Union Minister of Education, Social Welfare and Culture, Dr. P. C. Chunder, in New Delhi on February 2, 1978.

The Soviet Minister stated that despite the fact that the two countries had different socioeconomic systems, India and Soviet Union could collaborate with each other in the field of education to the mutual advantage of both.

Dr. Chunder pointed out that University Grants Commission was working out details for such projects in terms of cultural exchange programme between the two countries.

The Education Minister explained to the visiting Minister the new emphasis being laid on universalisation of elementary education and adult education. In this context, Prof. Elyutin stated that his country too had faced the problems of tackling illiteracy in the past.

The Soviet Minister suggested that in order to increase the level of facilities of teaching Russian to Indian students, the links Could be broadened between the Pushkin Institute of Foreign Languages and the Centre of Russian Studies in the Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Highlighting the need to explore the scope of cooperation in the fields of higher and technical education, Dr. Chunder said

that Soviet Union could provide specialised training to Indian scientists in marine sciences and oceaonology. The Soviet Union could also consider the Suggestion to supply the latest technical equipment to the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, which the Soviet Minister would be visiting in next few days. Prof. Elyutin agreed to consider the Suggestions.

INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date: Feb 01, 1978

Volume No

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UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Indo-Soviet Joint Commission

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on February 22, 1978 on the preparatory talks for Indo-Soviet Joint Commission.

The preparatory official-level discussions, in connection with the next meeting of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, began in New Delhi on February 22,1978. Mr. V. I. Litvinenko, Deputy Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign and Economic Relations is leading the Soviet team. The Indian side is led by Shri Mantosh Sondhi, Secretary, Ministry of Steel and Mines.

Seven working groups have been set up in various sectors, These, are for steel and mines (including coal), petroleum and oil exploration, chemicals and fertilisers, heavy machine building, communication and transport including railways, trade and agriculture, and science and technology. Indian working groups will have detailed discussions with their Soviet counterparts in the respec-

tive areas. These discussions are expected to last for three or four days.

The regular meeting of the Commission will be held at New Delhi in the first week of March, 1978.

Mr. I. V. Arkhipov, Deputy Prime Minister of the USSR is the Soviet Co-Chairman of this joint Commission while Shri A. B. Vajpayee Foreign Minister, is the Indian Co-Chairman. This will be the fourth meeting of the Commission. The last meeting was held in Moscow from March 31 to April 5, 1976.

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INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date: Feb 01, 1978

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UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Protocol on Non-ferrous Metallurgy

The following is the text of a press re lease issued in New Delhi on February 24, 1978 on the signing of an Indo-Soviet protocol on non-ferrous metallurgy:

A protocol on cooperation between India and the Soviet Union in the field of nonferrous metallurgy was signed in New Delhi on February 24, 1978. Mr. A. F. Tyuriakov, leader of the Soviet delegation, signed on behalf of the USSR and Dr. A. K. Ghosh, Additional Secretary (Mines) signed on behalf of India. This was done in conformity with the Joint Soviet-Indian declaration providing for further deveolpment of cooperation in the main fields of the Indian economy which was signed on October 26,

1977, in Moscow by Shri Morarji Desai and Mr. L. I. Brezhnev. During the past two weeks, there have been detailed discussions between the delegation of Soviet experts on non-ferrous metallurgy and reprsentatives of the Ministry of Steel and Mines and officials of various public sector undertakings dealing with non-ferrous metals.

ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

The possibilities of further promotion of cooperation in the field of non-ferrous metallurgy have been emphasised in the protocol. It has been noted with satisfaction that there has been successful development of economic and technical cooperation in the construction of the Korba Aluminium. Smelter of BALCO. The document lays stress on long-term cooperation in the development and production of non-ferrous metals and also on evolving effective methods of concentration for polymetallic ores.

It is noted in the protocol that apart from the earlier Soviet cooperation in setting up the aluminium. smelter at Korba, there has been further development of cooperation in bauxite evaluation and production of alumina and aluminium based on the East Coast deposits for which a feasibilty report for the construction of an alumina plant with Soviet assistance has already been submitted to the Indian side. The construction of the plant would be on production cooperation basis through export of up to 300,000 tonnes of alumina per annum to the Soviet Union from the plant.

Among the other areas of cooperation, the protocol mentions the improvement and optimisation of production at the Panna Diamond Mines with Soviet technical expertise and the possibility of a nickel and cobalt production plant based on the Sukinda deposits, for which the Soviet organisations would conduct necessary laboratory and pilot scale tests. It was agreed that the concerned Soviet organisations would submit a draft contract for the feasibility report within the shortest possible time.

Both sides agreed to consider coopera-

tion in various spheres of geological investigation and exploration relating to nonferrous metals. This would include training of Indian geologists in the USSR in geo-chemical investigations and the training of Indian geophysicists as also supply of the required equipment for exploration and estimation of non-ferrous metal deposits as well as rare metal deposits.

India and the Soviet Union have generally agreed to increase all possible cooperation in technological research. It has also been considered advisable to establish greater contact and cooperation in the research, design and production fields of non-ferrous metallurgy.

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USA INDIA RUSSIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date: Feb 01, 1978

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UNITED KINGDOM

UK Offers of Fertilisers

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on February 21, 1978 on the United Kingdom offer of fertilisers to India:

Shri Janeshwar Mishra, Minister of State for Petroleum and Chemicals & Fertilisers told the Lok Sabha on February 21, 1978 that the United Kingdom had offered fertiliser worth (pond) 10 million (approximately Rs. 158 million) annually for a period of three years.

The Minister who was replying to an unstarred question of Dr. Vasant Kumar Pandit

said that the offer of UK grant-in-aid to India was made by the British Prime Minister during his recent visit to India.

Shri Janeshwar Mishra said that the funds raised by the sale of fertilisers would be utilised for agricultural development in selected districts through fertiliser educational projects. The districts to be covered under the project, the Minister said, were to be selected from among those which had high potential but low consumption of fertilisers. The details of the scheme, he said, were yet to be finalised.

UNITED KINGDOM INDIA

Date: Feb 01, 1978

Volume No

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VIETNAM

Prime Minister Shri Desai's Speech at Banquet

The following is the text of a press release of the speech by Shri Morarji Desai, Prime Minister at a banquet given by him in honour of Mr. Pham Van Dong, Prime, Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in New Delhi on February 24, 1978:

It gives me great pleasure to extend a warm and cordial welcome to Your Excellency and to your colleagues on your first visit to our country. We welcome you not only as Prime Minister of a friendly country but as a great leader of the Vietnamese people whose spirit of freedom, whose courage in the face of heavy odds and whose sufferings in the cause of national honour have become part of the legend of our time and form a glorious chapter in the history of man's emancipation.

Our peoples are not strangers to each other. They have indeed known each other for centuries. History records a continuous exchange of ideas and of peaceful intercourse between us. Champadesa, as a part of modern Vietnam was called, in our annals was synonymous with a high degree of culture and great feats of heroism. In the era of western predominance both of us came under the sway of western imperialism and when the tide of colonialism began to recede, history would record that this phase began with the independence of this Sub-continent and has been illumined by the historic victory of the Vietnamese people. It is not, therefore, surprising that the people of India extended their full support to your noble struggle and when you achieved victory they rejoiced together, as fellow-Asians, fellowsufferers and fellow-men.

VISIT OF HO CHI MINH RECALLED

Today we fondly recall the visit of your great leader Ho Chi Minh 20 years ago. He was a leader with great moral authority, a source of strength for the Vietnamese people. Indeed Bac Ho, as you fondly call him was not only your friend, philosopher and guide but also an inspiration and source

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of light to all of us working for the welfare of our people and the elimination of the remaining vestiges of colonial rule.

Excellency, we all are cognisant of the tremendous problems you have to face as the aftermath of the war of liberation. After your long struggle for liberation and reunification you are now engaged in national rehabilitation and reconstruction.

ENORMOUS TASKS

The task you face is enormous and as befits self-respecting people of your country you have to depend primarily on our own efforts. But we are clear in our mind that it is the moral obligation of all peoples of the world, of the international community as a whole, to extend unasked all possible assistance to the people of Vietnam. It is in this

spirit and with affection and admiration for the Vietnamese people that we have offered to do our bit, to share our expertise and skills, which we have gained since independence, with you as friends. In the nature of things, ours can only be a token contribution. But I hope that as contacts develop, our mutual cooperation can become multidimensional and can open new horizons for exchange of experience between our peoples and for consolidating our friendship.

The visit by the Vietnamese Delegation in 1977 followed by the delegation led by our Minister of State, Shri Samarendra Kundu, a few weeks ago when Your Excellency graciously received him has laid excellent foundation for our cooperation. There have been other visits also. But Your Excellency's visit to India today not only symbolises the continuing friendly intercourse between our peoples but would also further promote and strengthen our relationship.

Preoccupied as both our peoples are with the exacting and onerous task of establishing a just and happy society, of meeting the legitimate aspirations and expectations of our long suffering peoples and of raising their standard of living, an environment of peace becomes the essential pre-condition for our national effort. Non-alignment which provides the corner stone of our foreign policy has to my mind one strategic objective -- to make the world safe for development, to enlarge the area of peace and international understanding, to defuse intrenational tensions, to stop the arms race and to abolish the weapons of mass destruction and to divert the resources so saved for the accelerated progress of our people. Non-alignment guarantees our survival in dignity as sovereign and independent nations. But human dignity today also demands the dipappearance of racism from the face of the globe so that mankind as a whole can move forward to an era of friendly cooperation towards a new international economic order which would eschew gross disparities and exploitation and would be founded on just and equitable sharing of the resources of mankind, in a spirit of inter-dependence.

Excellency, we all realise that the New

Order will not dawn overnight and we have to build its foundations brick by brick. But we must keep the vision before us while in our own regions we try to raise ourselves above the conflict of national interests and promote regional cooperation. Such cooperation would introduce a much needed element of complementarity and utility into the prospects of peace and stability and, therefore, of development. What is more it will promote self-help and mutual help at the same time.

Excellency, it is for this reason that we have made special efforts since my Government came to power to strengthen our relations with our immediate neighbours, even at some sacrifice to ourselves. Today I am happy to see that there is a new spirit of friendly cooperation in the sub-continent, though we may not have solved all our problems.

NORMALISATION OF RELATIONS

We have noted with appreciation the efforts of your Government towards normalisation of relations with all States in South East Asia on the basis of principles of peaceful co-existence. It is a matter of gratification for us who are next door to you that inter-State relations in South East Asia have shown distinct improvement and there is a favourable climate for developing friendly cooperation. Gradual but steady improvement cannot but contribute decisively to peace, harmony and stability in the region and to the development of States therein. It is in this context that we are really distressed at the strained relations between two non-aligned and developing countries, Vietnam and Kampuchea. It is our earnest hope that these

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differences will be resolved soon peacefully on the principles which you and we both cherish.

Excellency, we deeply appreciate that you could spare a few days to spend in our midst in spite of your many pre-occupations. Apart from useful discussions at various levels we hope to show you something of our

country and give you at least a passing glimpse of our cultural heritage, of our tangible though modest achievements in various fields of human endeavour and of the visible improvement in the quality of life, in this vast and ancient land. We have a long way to go and we have much to learn from other friendly countries. But our people are determined to march forward to a better life and towards economic and social justice.

Excellency, I have no doubt that your visit will deepen and enrich our knowledge of each other and help us discover new areas of cooperation and exchange of experience and strengthen our friendship which you have once so movingly described as "serene blue sky with no clouds".

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I have the honour to request you all to join me in proposing a toast to the health of His Excellency Mr. Ton Duc Thang, President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; to the health of His Excellency Mr. Pham Van Dong, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; to the progress and prosperity of the valiant and friendly people of Vietnam; and to the everlasting friendship between Vietnam and India.

VIETNAM INDIA USA MALI PERU

Date: Feb 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

VIETNAM

Vietnam Prime Minister's Reply

Replying to the toast, the Vietnamese Prime Minister said:

Your Excellency Mr. Prime Minister

Morarji Desai, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I sincerely thank you, Mr. Prime Minister, for your warm and profound feelings towards Vietnam and the Vietnamese people. I sincerely thank you and the Government of the Republic of India for having given me the opportunity to return, after twenty three years, for a visit to this great country.

My previous visit left me deeply impressed by the Indian civilisation, one of mankind's oldest and most outstanding civilisations, and by the big projects the Indian people were embarking on in their first fiveyear plan after winning independence. In my current visit, on behalf of the Vietnamese people who have won complete victory in their patriotic war, on behalf of the Government of unified and socialist Vietnam, it gives me great joy to convey to the fraternal Indian people and the Government of the Republic of India, friendly greetings and warm congratulations on the great achievements recorded by the Indian people since they become masters of their destiny more than 30 years ago, It is great honour for me to have the opportunity this time to meet the leaders of India and particularly you, Mr. Prime Minister, a disciple and comradein-arms of Mahatma Gandhi, that veteran statesman who worked all his life for the prosperity of India, that great friend of Vietnam and the architect of the friendship between our two countries.

PURE RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND VIETNAM

Mr. Prime Minister, our two peoples may be proud that the relations between Vietnam and India over the past 20 centuries have always been very pure relations, relations of peace and friendship. In the long years under colonial rule, our two peoples encouraged each other in their struggle for national liberation till final victory. The drive for independence begun by Mahatma Gandhi in the 1920's aroused enthusiasm among Vietnamese patriots. Independent India, through the voices of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, was at the side of the Vietnamese people from the first days of their war of

resistance against the imperialist aggressors. The visits to Vietnam made by Indian leaders Jawaharlal Nehru, Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, Rajendra Prasad, and the visits to India made by our late President Ho Chi Minh and by myself constitute milestones in the unceasing development of the friendship between our two peoples. The Vietnam -

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India joint communique signed by President Ho Chi Minh and Prime Minister Nehru twenty years ago affirmed the Indian people's support to the Vietnamese people in their struggle for independence, freedom and national reunification.

ADMISSION TO U.N.

Following the Vietnamese people's complete victory, the Republic of India actively supported Vietnam's admission to the United Nations Organisation and, with other friendly countries sponsored the UN Resolutions on reconstruction aid. to Vietnam, and proposed the creation of non-aligned movement funds to suport Vietnam and Laos. India is wholeheartedly supporting and assisting us in many ways in the fields of agriculture, animal husbandry, industry, communications and transport, science and technology. We consider these as valuable contributions to healing the wounds of war and national construction in Vietnam. During my current visit, many agreements - economic, cultural, scientific and technical - will be concluded, opening bright prospects for the multiform friendly cooperation between our two coun-

Mr. Prime Minister, having the scout-go of colonial domination in common, our two countries have to solve many difficult and complex problems left by the colonialist system in many areas, As with India in the first days of its independence, our country's pressing task is to eliminate the consequences of the colonialist regime, to build our economy rapidly, to catch up with developed countries, and to bring our people a plentiful and happy life. We fully agree with Mr. Prime Minister's words at the Ministerial Conference of the Coordinating Bureau of the

non-aligned countries in New Delhi in April 1977.

".... our freedom would not be secure until the torch of freedom had been lit in so many lands which were under foreign rule". It is precisely because we share the same objectives and views that our two countries have united with each other, and with other countries in the non-aligned movement of which India is one of the initiators, in the common struggle to foil the schemes of imperialism, colonialism and neocolonialism. determined to regain the right to be masters, politically and economically, of our own destinies, to be the masters of our natural resources, and to build an independent and happy life for our people. The friendly solidarity and cooperation between our two peoples will surely make a positive contribution to the growth of the non-aligned movement, to the cause of peace, national independence, democracy and social progress in this region and the world over.

With the belief that our current visit will open a new page in the fine relationship between our two countries, I would like to propose a toast to the increasing connsolidation and development of the friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and India; to the prosperity of the Republic of India: to the happiness of the Indian people; to the health of His Excellency Mr. President Sanjiva Reddy; of the health of Your Excellency Mr. Prime Minister Morarji Desai; and to the health of all our friends, ladies and gentlemen present here today.

VIETNAM INDIA USA LAOS

Date: Feb 01, 1978

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VIETNAM

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on February 24, 1978 on the speech made by Shri Morarji Desai, Prime Minister while welcomming the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Mr. Pham Van Dong, at the meeting of the Indian Parliamentary Group in New Delhi on February 24, 1978:

I am very happy indeed to say a word of Welcome at this meeting of the Indian Parliamentary Group to honour the acknowledge leader of a great nation which has carved a niche for itself in the annals of history and in our hearts. Like many countries of Asia and Africa, both India and Vietnam underwent the painful experience of colonialism, but they kept their spirit alive despite repression and untold suffring and finally succeded in marching into the dawn of freedom. I must acknowledge also, Mr. Prime Minister, that the recent re-unification of Vietnam, peace-

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ful and based on national consensus, is yet another achievement of your people.

LONG AND SUSTAINED STRUGGLE

Both our countries had to wage a long and sustained struggle and had to pay a heavy price for our liberation. Both of us were fortunate to have in Mahatma Gandhi Ho Chi Minh, leaders of extraordinary vision and moral authority, who succeeded in galvanising our peoples into sacrifices for the cause of liberty and national dignity. Both inculcated in our respective peoples the fortitude to suffer and to sacrifice in the cause of freedom. Their vision continues to inspire us today, when we are both engaged in building a new life for our peoples, a new society based on social and economic justice and a new world where the resources of the earth, the common heritage of mankind, are available for the development of the human race as a whole. We are also engaged in the common task of achieving a new World Order based on eliminating the ills of the

past and while preserving and sustaining its good, creating a new environment of public weal and welfare.

Mr. Prime Minister, though our methods were different our goals were and are the same - not just liberation from a foreign yoke, but a life of dignity for our people and beyond our national frontier, abolition of exploitation of nation by nation and of racial arrogance, and the construction of a human society permeated by the spirit of inter-dependence and shared objectives.

Mr. Prime Minister, many of us present here took part in our struggle for freedom. but taught by Gandhiji and other great leaders, none of us had ever any doubt in our mind that freedom was indivisible but Inevitable and freedom for India made sense and meaning only if it helped to accelerate the process of promoting popular well-being. Our people have, therefore, extended all possible support to the cause of freedom in other parts of the world. Vietnam was no exception. More than that It captured our Imagination and struck warm chords of sympathy and comradeship in us. On many occasions, the cause of Vietnam was discussed in our Parliament. Invariably, we were fully of admiration for your valiant people and expressed our solidarity with their struggle.

HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR

We are aware of the enormous task of healing the wounds of war and of national reconstruction that lies ahead of your people. We have been engaged in similar endeavours for three decades and we are conscious of the obstacles and difficulties a developing country has to face in making a break-through, in reaching the take-off point, in husbanding limited resources among competing priorities, and what is more, in ensuring that the gains of development reach all parts of the country and all sections of our people. Your difficulties, I know, are even bigger than ours, for you have inherited a war-ravaged economy and the remains of senseless destruction. This is why Ave strongly believe that the international community must join hands with you in your quest for development. We, on

our part are ready to share with your people our experience and our skills and make howsoever modest a contribution to the new building of a happy life in Vietnam. We have no doubt that with their burning nationalism and capacity for sacrifices, your people will bear the essential burden and will carry through the task of national reconstruction. Nothing is impossible for the brave and determined people of Vietnam and we are confident that a great future lies ahead for your country.

Mr. Prime Minister, with these words, may I express my good wishes for an era of peace and prosperity in Vietnam and for everlasting friendship between our peoples.

VIETNAM INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date: Feb 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

VIETNAM

Mr. Dong Addresses Indian Parliamentary Group

Following is the text of the address by Mr. Pham Van Dong to the Indian Parliamentary Group on February 24, 1978:

Your Excellency Mr. Vice President, Distinguished Members of Parliament, it is a great honour for me, on behalf of the National Assembly and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, to convey to you, distinguished representatives of the great Indian people, a message of friendship from the Vietnamese people.

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The friendship between our two peoples is a time-honoured, durable, and deep friendship stemming from our mutual understanding and respect, from our solidarity and

mutual support in the struggle for the independence and freedom of our respective countries, from our multiform cooperation in national construction according to our respective paths, from our coordination in international activities - in the non-aligned movement in particular - for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress throughout the world.

For the Vietnamese people, this pure and fine friendship is deeply rooted in long-standing cultural exchanges between our two countries, in our feelings and admiration for the civilisation and, more importantly, a civilisation which after so many trials over 50 centuries, has preserved all its originality, its continuity, and its unity. This is the most eloquent demonstration of the strong vitality of the Indian people, who have always turned towards the lofty objectives of mankind truth, freedom, and happiness - and have always been open to new horizons, receiving the new values of the present that they think suitable. The true friends of the Indian people are gratified to note that the former birthplace of so many great works in philosophy, literature, the arts, science, and technology, is also the native land of the green revolution in agriculture and of a strong development of heavy and light industries, which have reached international standards in a number of branches, of rapid progress in science and technology with outstanding achievements in many fields. Clearly India is a country thriving in all respects. A nation of over 600 million very industrious, creative and talented people, who have inherited one of the oldest and most brilliant cultures of mankind and have now become masters of a country the size of a continent with diversified and abundant resources, is sure to record extraordinary achievements for its own benefit and also in the interests of peace and cooperation among nations.

PROFOUND FRIENDSHIP

The profound friendship between our two peoples clearly manifested itself in our multiform mutual support in a glorious struggle for the independence and freedom of each country. We Vietnamese followed with enormous enthusiasm and pride the tenacious and hard but increasingly vigorous and unremitting struggle waged by hundreds of millions of Indians determined to rid themselves of colonial domination and to win independence and freedom. This struggle is an epic tesifying to the heroic, unvielding and ardently patriotic traditions of the Indian people who, at the forceful call of Mahatma Gandhi, stood up millions as one in a struggle that shook colonial rule to its foundations and brought the glorious victory of August 15, 1947. The people of Viet Nam and many other nations welcomed with boundless joy and pride the Indian people's splendid victory which remains closely associated with the legendary figure of Mahatma Gandhi, the founder of the Republic of India.

About the same time, we Vietnamese, responding to President Ho Chi Minh's resounding call stepped up our struggle with a determination that overwhelmed the enemy forces and led to the triumph of the August 1945 Revolution and to the founding of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam on September 2, 1945. However, due to the intervention of imperialist forces our fight for independence, freedom and reunification did not end then. It continued for 30 years, and became the longest, hardest and most glorious struggle against imperialist aggression of the present times. Holding high the sacred banner of President Ho Chi Minh who held that "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom", and united millions as one, we Vietnamese persisted in our fight, brought all our nation's strength and heroism to bear and won success after success until the splendid victory of Spring 1975. This was a victory of the iron will of a nation willing to make every sacrifice to defeat an aggressor who was then considered invincible, a victory of human intelligence and strength over modern weaponry. People all over the world recognize that the Vietnamese people's victory was an event of historic and important international significance, influencing many parts of the world. If I consider it necessary to recall here today the process of the Vietnamese people's struggle for independence, freedom and reunification, it is to express our sincere and profound gratitude to

you, representatives of the Indian people, for your persistent, firm and strong support throughout an entire period of history. The Indian people's precious support, along with

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that of other nations, was a factor for the Vietnamese people's victory.

COURAGE AND SACRIFICE

The Vietnamese people fought for many years with courage and awsome sacrifice to become total masters of their country, to build a peaceful, independent, unified, and socialist Viet Nam, to bring prosperity to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and happiness to themselves, and at the same time to fulfil their lofty international duty of aiding the liberation of other nations.

To overcome the extremely grave consequences of the war, to restore and develop the economy, to develop culture, to stabilise and gradually improve the people's living conditions, we are mobilising all the energies of our people and all the resources of our country. If in the past our slogan was: "All for the front! AU for victory!" now, it is: "All for production, all for the construction of socialism, all for the prosperity of the fatherland and the people's welfare!" Not even three years have elapsed since we won complete victory, yet during this very short period, many achievements of great and farreaching importance have been recorded. We are resolved to march forward in the spirit of a victor, to do all we can to ensure the working people's right to be the collective masters of society considering it an extremely important factor for the construction of a new, prosperous, happy, and civilised Viet Nam with a high material life and a radiant and fine cultural and spiritual life.

In this great and long-term undertaking, we rely mainly on our own strength while trying our best to establish relations of friendship and cooperation with all fraternal socialist countries and all friendly countries around the world. and with international organisations including those at the United Nations. Today, I am happy to express our

warm gratitude for the precious support and assistance given us by the Government and fraternal people of India in agriculture, industry, communications and transport, science, and technology and other fields, support and assistance which are only initial steps. The friendship, mutual support and assistance, and cooperation between our two countries in the fields of economy, trade, culture, science and technology, have fine possibilities and prospects. Through many stages of history, our two peoples have realised more clearly than ever the importance of strengthening the friendship and the multiform cooperation between our two countries, in our own interests, and for the coordination of our international activities.

We still remember very clearly that after winning independence, the leaders of the Indian Government laid down a very important direction for international activities of the Republic of India. In fact, India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, was one of the promoters of the newly independent countries' movement to defend their legitimate interests while making ever greater contributions to the cause of peace and national liberation in the world. We all remember the historic Bandung Conference. Since then, the movement has grown rapidly to become the movement of non-aligned countries today.

INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

In the present international situation, everybody understands the increasing importance of the movement of non-aligned countries, and with good reason, because it includes the majority of countries, and the greater part of mankind. Moreover, it includes many countries with the oldest and finest cultures; it controls very precious natural, resources for the economy and life of many countries. What a cruel contradiction that it is these very countries which have endured so many centuries of oppression and exploitation, so much suffering and humiliation, and are leading an unbearably poor and dim life.

This is where the movement of the non-

aligned countries gets its strength from; the strength that comes with the desire for independence and sovereignty, for political, economic and cultural independence and sovereignty - genuine independence and sovereignty, certainly not the kind of formal independence and sovereignty that hides a neocolonialist regime, which is even more dangerous than old colonialism. In order to secure such independence and sovereignty, nonaligned countries must elicit mass support in their own countries, and at the same time make every effort to expand alliances with progressive forces in the world. This is a law for the development in both size and essence of the non-aligned countries move-

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ment, of the Third World, while working for a new international order, for the vital interests of many economically under-developed countries which are victim of the imbalance of trade and payments and of unequal relations with developed capitalist countries.

At the Colombo Conference of nonaligned countries in August 1976, I clearly expounded the stand and policy of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on the above-mentioned questions, and on the movement of non-aligned countries in general. I listened with pleasure to Prime Minsiter Shri Morarji Desai's opening speech at the New Delhi Ministerial Conference of the Co-ordinating Bureau of non-aligned countries in April 1977, noting that Viet Nam's approach is close to India's on many points and, therefore, there are great possibilities for us to co-ordinate our actions in this extremely important international movement.

BASIC NATIONAL RIGHTS

Our planet is witnessing far-reaching developments, in keeping with the law of historical evolution. Mankind has been on the march since the Stone Age and everyone knows that the most rapid and tremendous advances are happening in our times. Proceeding from that viewpoint, the Vietnamese people are convinced of the final victory of

the just struggle of many peoples for their basic national rights, especially the struggle of Arab peoples and the Palestinian people in the Middle and Near East, of the peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia and Azania in Southern Africa, which is arousing world public opinion. This is an inevitable trend of history, and no reactionary force whatsoever can check it!

Closely linked by a sacred solidarity with the peoples of the world who have been supporting us, we, the Vietnamese people, will always be true to the ideal: "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom". Independence and freedom of our own country and of other countries as well. This is the principled stand of the Vietnamese people and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. This stand which shines of justice has enjoyed the warm sympathy and support of the peoples of the world. Proceeding from this principled stand, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam is doing all it can for a fair and reasonable settlement of the problems concerning the relations between Viet Nam and Kampuchea in keeping with the February 5, 1978 statement of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. We are deeply convinced that in the end justice will prevail, genuine friendship between the Vietnamese and the Kampuchean peoples will triumph, and the desire of many peoples in the world will come true.

In this connection, I think it necessary to make clear that, immediately after achieving independence, freedom and national reunification, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam set out to strengthen friendship and cooperation with other Southeast-Asian countries, in accordance with its four-point policy which has been appreciated by large sections of world public opinion. At the same time, we have unceasingly broadened our relations in many fields and forms with countries in Asia and the Pacific and on other continents as well, on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence.

Peace, friendship and cooperation are great and pressing demands of the current

world situation in keeping with the interests of each country and of the international. In our times, it is an extremely important task to defend world peace. The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam is determined to struggle, together with other socialist countries, non-aligned countries, and other forces of peace in the world, for the realisation of this lofty aspiration of mankind.

During my stay in your glorious and beautiful country, I had and shall have more opportunities to talk with Prime Minister Morarji Desai about the relations between our two countries and about international situation. We think that both sides will have identity of views on a series of questions of mutual concern, this identity of views will be a vivid expression of the friendship and multiform cooperation between our two peoples. As in the past this friendship will always be as pure as a cloudless sky, and this cooperation will unceasingly blossom and bear fruit.

Thank you for your attention.

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VIETNAM INDIA USA INDONESIA SRI LANKA NAMIBIA ZIMBABWE

Date: Feb 01, 1978

Volume No

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VIETNAM

India and Vietnam Sign Four Agreements

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on February 26, 1978 on the signing of agreements between India and Viet Nam:

During the visit of Mr, Pham Van Dong

the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the following agreements were signed between India and Vietnam in New Delhi on February 26, 1978.

AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

This agreement was signed on the Indian side by the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Shri S. S. Barnala, and on the Vietnamese side by the Minister of Foreign Trade, Mr. Dang Viet Chau.

The agreement envisages cooperation in agricultural research, education, training and production techniques through an exchange of scientists, literature and import and export of equipment, on the basis of workplans to be drawn up by the two sides.

TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT

This agreement was signed on the Indian side by the Minister of Commerce and Civil Supplies, Shri Mohan Dharia, and on the Vietnamese side by the Minister of Foreign Trade, Mr. Dang Viet Chau.

It enables the two parties to accord MFN treatment to each other. Indicative lists of items that could be traded is also mentioned. The two sides will settle their accounts in freely convertible currencies. There is also a provision for projects in economic and technical cooperation to be mutually agreed upon.

CREDIT AGREEMENT

This agreement was signed on the Indian side by the Minister of Finance, Shri H. M. Patel, and on the Vietnamese side by the Minister of Foreign Trade, Mr, Dang Viet Chau.

Under this agreement, India will give a credit of Rs. 100 million to Vietnam for purchase of railway equipment and such other goods as may be mutually agreed upon. A part of this credit will also be utilised to import livestock from India. The credit carries an interest rate of 5% and repay-

ments, spread over 10 years, will commence from 1982.

AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

This agreement was signed on the Indian side by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and on the Vietnamese side by the Minister of Foreign Trade, Mr, Dang Viet Chau.

The agreement envisages cooperation in science and technology through an exchange of scientists, specialists and scientific information etc. It also has provision for joint research on problems of common interest to both sides. Under this agreement the two countries may also exchange licenses and patents.

VIETNAM INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Feb 01, 1978

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VIETNAM

Cultural Exchange Programme

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on February 26, 1978 on the cultural exchange programme signed with Vietnam:

The first cultural exchange programme between India and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was signed in New Delhi on February 26, 1978.

Shri P. Sabanayagam, Secretary, Ministry of Education, Social Welfare and Culture, and Mr. Vu Quoc Vy, Acting President of the Commission for Cultural Relations with

Foreign Countries, signed the agreement on behalf of the two countries.

Under the cultural exchange programme, both countries will exchange visits by edu-

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cational experts, archaeologists, cultural troupes, journalists, and sports teams.

Besides finalising the facilities which may be provided to the students of each other's country, educational experts will also examine the question of establishing equivalence of the degrees and diplomas awarded by higher institutions of the two countries.

The two sides will also encourage their respective radio and television stations for exchanging gramophone records, musical compositions, television films and news bulletins. The national libraries of India and Vietnam will exchange books on science and art, besides other publications. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Sabanayagam expressed his hope that the agreement will further strengthen areas of cooperation between the two friendly countries. The cultural ties between India and Vietnam that were established since ancient times would be further strengthened, he felt.

Mr. Vu Quoc Vy pointed out that the agreement assumes greater importance as it has been signed during the current visit of the Prime Minister of his country to India.

VIETNAM INDIA USA

Date: Feb 01, 1978

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VIETNAM

India's Economic Assistance to Vientam

The following is the text of the press communique issued in Hanoi on February 8, 1978 at the conclusion of the visit of a high-level Indian economic delegation, led by the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri Samarendra Kundu:

The economic delegation exchanged views on the possibilities of economic, scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries

The Indian side showed full understanding of the colossal problems of reconstruction which Vietnam is facing after the war and agreed to a long-term loan to finance import

from India of rolling stock and equipment needed for improving the railway transport capacity of Vietnam. The line of credit will be expended by the Government of India in association with the Indian banking system and will also finance other priorities indicated by the Vietnamese side, namely, agriculture and livestock.

The two heads of delegations also discussed the strengthening of relations between India and Vietnam in the fields of economy and trade, science and technology and agricultural research. Formal agreement on cooperation in these areas will be concluded in the near future.

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Date: Mar 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

AFGHANISTAN

President Sanjiva Reddy's Speech at Banquet in Honour of President Daoud

The President Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy, made the following speech in New Delhi on March 3, 1978 at the banquet given in honour of His Excellency President Daoud of Afghanistan:

It is a matter of great pleasure and, indeed, a privilege for me to have this opportunity of welcoming you in our midst. You are not only one of the most respected and far-sighted statesmen of Asia and the acclaimed leader of your people but also an old and trusted friend of India.

Your Excellency is not a stranger to India. Our people have had the privilege of welcoming you in 1975. Indeed, we are greatly honoured by your present visit to India, Which gives us an opportunity of exchanging views on matters of mutual interest and on deepening further our existing bonds in an

atmosphere of friendship and trust which have throughout characterised the relations between our countries and peoples.

Afghanistan has stood at the cross roads of rich and varied cultures and civilisations. Armies and caravans, travellers and sages have moved through your beautiful land which has assimilated these diverse influences and evolved a distinct personality and character of its own, as a proud nation, generous and hospitable, which through fierce struggles and sacrifices has maintained its tradition of independence. Your Excellency truly epitomizes that indomitable Afghan spirit of independence.

Indian philosophy, science, art and culture have also passed through Afghanistan to different parts of Asia and the world. Generations ago, many Afghans made India their home. They too have enriched our culture. We are also indebted to Afghanistan for giving shelter to many Indian freedom fighters, including Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, during the days of our own struggle for independence.

Our two peoples have, therefore, good reason to be proud of the shared heritage of a civilisation whose values and ideals are reflected in their endeavours in the fields of art, architecture and literature. Our two peoples also came together in their common struggle to resist colonial domination.

Thus, the ties of brotherly relations between India and Afghanistan are nothing new. Relations have been consistently warm, further reinforced by the determined efforts of our two governments. There has existed a close identity of approach between us on various international development. Our relations have grown even warmer with the advent of the Republican regime under Your Excellency's wise stewardship.

Mr. President, we have watched with deep admiration the efforts being made by your country in the numerous fields of developmental activity aimed at raising the standards of the people and enabling them to share the scientific and technological advancement taking place in world. It is a measure of your wisdom courage and vision that you have made progress, peace and harmony as the foundations of your policy at home and abroad.

India too has experienced momentous developments since Your Excellency visited our country last. As you are aware we had a peaceful and orderly change of government in March, 1977. What had happened has conclusively showed that the democratic sentiment has taken deep roots and the people of India cherish liberty above everything else. We too are bending all our energies to the task of accelerating the pace of progress in the country to give material content to our political liberty. Along with this we are also striving to rekindle our rich

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cultural, heritage in order that the process of modernisation is given depth and direction.

I would like to emphasise that change in the government has not affected our foreign policy which has been based on a broad national consensus. We stand for friendship with all nations on a footing of equality and constructive reciprocity. We would like to give special attention to strengthening friendship and promoting economic and technical cooperation with nonaligned and other developing countries. Afghanistan and India are members of nonaligned movement. Both subscribe to the concept of peaceful co-existence. It is a mark of our commitment to this movement that the last meet of foreign Ministers of the Coordinating bureau of non-aligned countries was held in New Delhi and the next meeting is scheduled to be held shortly in Kabul.

We firmly believe that we must give first priority to promoting and strengthening our relations with our immediate neighbours through a process of constant dialogue. We have been making sincere and continued efforts to create an atmosphere of goodwill and to expand the ambit of positive cooperation wherever possible. Lasting peace in the region can rest only on a foundation of mutual trust. Beneficial bilateral endeayours

resulting in sub-regional and regional cooperation are the only way of ensuring peace and stability in the region.

With so much in common it appears to us only natural that there should be a common destiny for the peoples of our region. The long history of interaction of cultural forces, ideas and thoughts provides a receptive atmosphere in which economic complimentarity and cooperation are not only possible but indispensable. We are convinced that the constructive and mutually beneficial economic cooperation which marks the relations between our two countries will contribute in no small measures to this objective of regional cooperation.

Fortunately there are no problems outstanding between our two countries. We have always had a close identity of approach and have stood by each other in our moments of crisis. We are happy that in the recent years the bonds of cultural and economic relations have been continuously strengthened. Trade between two countries has been growing from year to year. There are a number of plans and programmes of economic cooperation which are moving forward. In this context the meeting of Indo-Afghan Joint Commission on Technical and Economic Cooperation in New Delhi in December 1977 proved extremely fruitful and has opened up new avenues of cooperation. I would like to take this opportunity to assure Your Excellency that India will always be with you in your struggle to develop your country at a fast pace. My Government is deeply committed to the cause of Indo-Afghan friendship and shall persevere in developing our relations from strength to strength. Your Excellency's visit, we are convinced, will further cement the abiding bonds which links Afghanistan and India.

Mr. President, we hope that you and the members of your delegation will have a pleasant and interesting stay in our country.

Your Excellencies, distinguished guests: I would now request you to raise your glasses and drink to the health and well being of His Excellency President Mohammad Daoud, to the continued progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Afghanistan and to the abiding ties of friendship and cooperation between India and Afghanistan.

AFGHANISTAN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Mar 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

AFGHANISTAN

Reply by President Daoud

Replying to the toast, President Daoud said:

Your Excellency Mr. President, Mr. Prime Minister, Your Excellency, Distinguished Guests,

On behalf of my companions and myself, I should like to extend to His Excellency the President, and His Excellency the Prime Minister and to the Government and the People of India, very sincere thanks for the warm and friendly reception and the gracious hospitality accorded to us from the moment we have set foot in this great country, and this beautiful city of Delhi.

We shall take back with us home the happy memories of our stay in the capital

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of this friendly country and shall cherish the sincerity and affection shown to us by the Indian people.

The visits of Afghan and of Indian leaders to each other's country, the close contacts and friendly relations between them

whilst manifesting on the one hand the very tangible friendship of the two countries, indicates on the other hand, the continuity of an historic custom which has never been interrupted. Afghan leaders have for many years enjoyed personal contacts and have been closely associated with their esteemed Indian counterparts; moreover the maintenance of such contacts between Afghan and Indian leaders, without doubt, has been and will continue to be advantageous in the strengthening of friendly ties and promotion of co-operation between our two countries.

Hence for this very reason, I was earnestly hoping that an occasion will present itself which will enable me to get to know and be personally acquainted with the new Indian leadership. I am happy indeed that Your Excellency's invitation has provided me with that opportunity of visiting once again your friendly country and, in the course of getting better acquainted with the new leaders of India, to renew the pledge of enduring friendship between the two countries and as a token of that friendship, to act as bearer of the message of amity and best. wishes of the people of Afghanistan to the people and the Government of India.

I very much hope that this personal contact and our talks will prove more successful than ever in the further development of ties of friendship and of mutually beneficial and effective co-operation.

Your Excellencies, dear friends, the traditional cordial relations between Afghanistan and India is expanding with the passing of each day, and the friendly and useful collaboration amongst, the two countries is ever increasing in accordance with the interests and wishes of our two nations. Whilst contemplating India's all round progress with admiration and praise, I should like to express my appreciation for the productive and selfless co-operation and assistance which the Government of India, has offered us in different fields.

Parallel with this mutual co-operation, there are also numerous similarities in our common outlook vis a vis international issues which emanates basically from the pursuit by the two countries of an independent national policy resting on the principles of active non-alignment and independent judgement of world problems.

Afghanistan and India are both peaceloving nations and consider peace as an imperative and paramount condition for development and progress.

Both countries support complete universal disarmament, the reduction of international tensions, the ending of colonialism and exploitation, the worldwise extension of detente, and the eradication of racial discrimination in all its forms and manifestations.

Both countries support the peaceful solution of differences. In view of this, therefore, Afghanistan has welcomed and will lend its support for the efforts which have been initiated of late, with a view to normalizing relations and promoting friendship and understanding between the countries of the region. Afghanistan is hopeful that with the just and durable peace solution of differences and of mutual problems a peace based upon amicable relations and bilateral and multilateral co-operation will be established amongst countries in this part of the world.

Both countries believe that a new and fair international economic order should replace the existing unjust world economic system which is totally incompatible with present day needs and circumstances of this world of ours.

With regard to the Middle-East, both countries are of the opinion that a just and lasting peace cannot be attained unless Israel withdraw completely from all occupied Arab territories and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including the establishment of their sovereign and national state, are secured.

Both countries seriously and energetically uphold the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and totally reject interference in one another's affairs, the use of force in the settlement of disputes, be it in the Horn of Africa or in Asia, or in any other part of the globe. Likewise, both countries are in complete agreement as to

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the need to keep the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace free from military rivalries.

It is in view of such similarity of policies and outlook over numerous international issues that the delegations of Afghanistan and of India maintain close collaboration at International conferences and United Nations gatherings and assist each other.

Dear friends, in extending once again on behalf of my companions and myself my cordial thanks for the warm reception accorded to us as well as for Your Excellency's friendly and kind words, and with the firm conviction that friendship between Afghanistan and India, is indestructible may I request all our friends gathered here to raise their glass and join me in this toast to the health and wellbeing of His Excellency the President and His Excellency the Prime Minister, to the prosperity of the great Indian Nation, and to ever growing friendship between Afghanistan and India.

AFGHANISTAN INDIA USA MALI ISRAEL

Date: Mar 01, 1978

Volume No

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AFGHANISTAN

Joint Communique

The following is the text of the Indo-Afghan Joint Communique:

At the invitation of the President of

India, Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, Mr. Mohammad Daoud, President of the Republic of Afghanistan, paid a state visit to India from March 3-5, 1978.

The President of Afghanistan was accorded a very warm and cordial welcome by the Government and the people of India reflecting the traditional fraternal ties between the two countries and the earnest desires of the two peoples to reaffirm their friendship and consolidate and expand the areas of cooperation between them in all fields.

The President of Afghanistan held extensive and wide-ranging talks with Shri Morarji Desai, the Prime Minister of India. The President was assisted by Professor Wafiullah Sameyee, Minister of Justice, Mr. Mohammad Khan Jalalar, Minister of Commerce, Mr. Waheed Abdullah, Minister-incharge for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Abdul Samad Ghaus, Deputy Minister for Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Hamidullah Enayat-Seraj, Ambassador of the Republic of Afghanistan in New Delhi, Mr. Abdul Ali Sulaiman, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mohammad Gul Jahangiri, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mohammad Seddiqu Saljocqi, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mohammad Mirza Sammah, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Abdul Ahad Nasser-Ziayee, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Mohammad Yahya Maroofi, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Prime Minister was assisted by Shri Charan Singh, Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Jagjivan Ram, Minister of Defence, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs, Shri Sikandar Bakht, Minister of Works and Housing, Shri Mohan Dharia, Minister of Commerce, Shri George Fernandes, Minister of Industry, Shri J. S. Mehta, Foreign Secretary, Shri V. K. Ahuja, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Shri K. D. Thapar, Commerce Secretary, Shri S. K. Singh, Ambassador of India, Kabul, Shri N. P. Jain, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Dr. I. P. Singh, Joint Secretary, Shri S. V. Purushottam, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs and Shri

R. K. Jerath, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs. The discussions covered matters of international and regional significance as well as bilateral cooperation.

The two sides expressed complete satisfaction at the progress of their bilateral relations in the political, economic and cultural fields and decided to explore further avenues for consolidating and enlarging them. The discussions which were held in an atmosphere of amity and goodwill, revealed a close identity of views on various subjects, reflecting the deep understanding which has existed between the two countries and their leaders.

The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of the U.N. Charter and their belief in the principles of peaceful co-existence and solution of international disputes through peaceful means, without use of force or threat to use force and mutual respect on the basis of sovereignty, equality and non-interference.

The President of Afghanistan and the Prime Minister of India stressed the abiding validity of the policy of non-alignment, the

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need for strict adherence to its fundamental principles and its role in promoting understanding among nations as reiterated at the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Coordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Countries in New Delhi in April 1977. Both sides felt that the forthcoming Conference of the Foreign Ministers of the Coordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Countries in Kabul from 6-11 May, 1978, should provide a useful and timely opportunity for the non-aligned movement to reinforce its unity and solidarity and take appropriate initiatives for promoting world peace and cooperation. The two sides agreed that mutually beneficial technical and economic cooperation amongst the non-aligned states based on the concept of self-reliance should be promoted with greater vigour.

The Prime Minister of India explained the further progress in normalisation of relations amongst the countries of the sub-continent. The President of Afghanistan welcomed these developments. Both sides recognised that promotion of trust and cooperation amongst the countries in South Asia would reinforce the search for peace and stability in Asia and the world.

The two sides agreed that the present situation in the Middle East is potentially dangerous. They favoured a just settlement of this problem based on the total withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories and recognition of the legitimate rights of the people of Palestine including the right to establish their own national state. While expressing the hope that efforts aimed at reconvening the Geneva Peace Conference would succeed, the two sides deplored that Israel has not complied with U.N. Resolutions and was, in fact, flouting them through actions like the illegal creation of new Israeli settlements in illegally occupied area.

The two sides viewed with concern the current conflict in the Horn of Africa and are of the view that the continuation of the dispute would invite increased great power rivalry in the region. They expressed the view that a political solution to the problem should be found within the framework of the OAU.

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 oppressed people of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa in their struggle for liberty, equality and their legitimate political and human rights.

They called upon the international community to work earnestly for general and complete disarmament and in particular elimination of nuclear weapons. The two sides expressed their fervent hope that the forthcoming Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament will succeed in evolving a time-bound programme for nuclear disarmament and measures to curb the arms race, thus releasing valuable resources for accelerated development activities particularly in developing countries.

The President of Afghanistan and the Prime Minister of India surveyed the situation in the Indian Ocean region. 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.

The two sides reviewed the international economic situation as it directly affected the developing countries. They called upon the developed countries to base their economic relations with developing countries on an equitable and just basis with a view to bringing about early establishment of the New International Economic Order. 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 to sustain the momentum of their development. The two sides recognising the particular problems and the special needs of the developing land-locked states resulting from their disadvantageous geographical location, expressed the desire that measures in favour of these countries be implemented expeditiously. The two sides expressed the hope that the U.N. Committee if The Whole established at the 32nd Session of the UN General Assembly will be able to provide concrete directives to North-South dialogue and accelerate the solution of many outstanding international economic issues of particular concern to the developing countries.

The two sides reviewed the pace of economic, technical and commercial cooperation between the two countries and noted with, satisfaction that considerable progress had been made in these fields. They agreed upon programmes to strengthen and widen further

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the areas of bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

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 President of Afghanistan expressed his sincere thanks for the cordial hospitality and warm reception extended to him and members of his delegation by the Government and people of India.

The President of Afghanistan extended cordial invitations to the President and Prime Minister of India to visit Afghanistan. The invitations were accepted with pleasure. The dates for these visits will be decided later.

AFGHANISTAN INDIA USA MALI ISRAEL SWITZERLAND NAMIBIA SOUTH AFRICA ZIMBABWE

Date: Mar 01, 1978

Volume No

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AFGHANISTAN

Wheat Credit for Afghanistan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on March 4, 1978 on wheat credit for Afghanistan:

India will give an interest free commodity loan of 50,000 Metric tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan. An agreement to this effect was signed in New Delhi on March 4, 1978, by Shri R. N. Malhotra, Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs on behalf of the Government of India and by Mohammad Assef, President, Food and Supply Department, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan.

India agreed to supply wheat at the request of the Government of Afghanistan to help tide over temporary shortage. Afghanistan will return the wheat two years after delivery by India.

Date: Mar 01, 1978

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BANGLADESH

Indo-Bangladesh Joint Press Statement

The following is the text of an Indo-Bangladesh joint press statement issued in New Delhi on March 24, 1978:

The Indian and Bangladesh delegations held talks from 22-23 March, 1978 on the delimitation of maritime boundary between the two countries. The Bangladesh delegation to the talks was led by Mr. Mohammed Siddiquer Rahman, Additional Secretary, incharge of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Inland Water Transport and included Mr. M. M. Rezaul Krim, Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh in New Delhi; Mr. Harunur Rashid, Director-General (South & South-East Asia) in the Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. M. S. Ali, Legal Adviser in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Mr. Abu Hena, a Chief Hydrographer. The Indian delegation was led by Shri J. S. Mehta, Foreign Secretary and included Shri Muchkund Dubey, Joint Secretary Incharge of the Bangladesh Division, Dr. S. P. Jagota, Joint Secretary, Legal & Treaties Division, Ministry of External Affairs, and Shri S. K. Chib, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Mines.

The talks were characterised by utmost cordiality and good-neighbourliness. The talks, which were held after an interval of about three years, were useful reviewing the position, helping the two delegations to understand each other's points of view and preparing the ground for further discussions. It was agreed to resume negotiations in Dacca as soon as possible.

BANGLADESH INDIA USA

Date: Mar 01, 1978

Volume No

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BHUTAN

Shri Reddy's Speech at Banquet in Honour of King of Bhutan

The President, Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, held a banquet in honour of His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuk, King of Bhutan, in New Delhi on March 26, 1978. proposing the toast, Shri Reddy said:

Your Majesty, Friends, it gives me great pleasure to welcome your Majesty and our dear friends from Bhutan this evening. We have happy memories of your visit to India approximately a year ago. That visit took place within a few days of our historic elections which gave our Government the massive mandate of the people in favour of democracy and civil liberties. It gave us very great satisfaction to meet and get to know personally your qualities of leadership and maturity. We were impressed and encouraged with your dedication to Bhutan's interest and to the deepening of the mutual understanding and traditional friendship between India and Bhutan. Your visit on this occasion is a concrete symbol of our mutual recognition of the great importance we both attach to the further improvement of these friendly relations between India and Bhutan.

Relations between India and Bhutan have been specially close, based on geographical proximity, a long and open common border which is entirely peaceful. We have watched with admiration the manner in which Bhutan has been facing the challenges of coping with economic growth and the rising expectations of the Bhutanese people under your dynamic leadership.

It is a matter of gratification that this challenge is being undertaken without abandoning the firm roots of Bhutanese traditions and the Bhutanese way of life. Our two societies have been inspired through the millenia by a deep-rooted faith in our traditional values. This makes it easier to adapt the advantages of modern Organisation and technology, while at the same time placing these at the service of our values, based on religion, culture and civilisation.

I am confident that the discussions which your Majesty has commenced today with the leaders of my Government will further consolidate the abiding spirit of trust and confidence that our two Governments have in each other and enhance the strnegth of our relations in every field to the mutual benefit of both our peoples. It is in this spirit of sensitivity to each other's aspirations and policies that we look forward to a further consolidation of our friendly good-neighbourly relations.

We are convinced that as a sovereign independent country under the able leadership of your Majesty, Bhutan and India must continue to enjoy close relations of interdependence, which the facts of geography, historical links, culture and religion, trade, economy and development of natural resources clearly compel. India has always felt it a privilege to be a partner in Bhutan's plans for economic and social development. Additionally, we feel encouraged in the pursuit of our policies by the realisation that India and Bhutan share a common appreciation and assessment of developments in the region.

Friends, may I request you to join me in a toast, to the health, long life and happiness of His Majesty Jigme Singye Wanchuck, the King of Bhutan, to the progress and prosperity of the people of Bhutan, to the further strengthening of the friendly ties between Bhutan and India.

Date: Mar 01, 1978

Volume No

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BHUTAN

Reply by King of Bhutan

Replying to the toast, the King of Bhutan said:

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am greatly touched by the love and affection with which I have been received during my present visit to New Delhi. India and Bhutan are not only next-door neighbours, but genuine friendship and trust have 123

developed between our two countries in recent years, based on common interests and aspirations. The warmth of hospitality with which I have been made to feel at home here, is therefore indicative, of the close and happy relationship which exists between our two countries.

In our national quest to modernise our country and achieve economic self-reliance, we have received the full and unstinted cooperation of India, during the past two decades. The bonds of cooperation in economic and other fields continue to grow to our mutual advantage. The generous support and assistance which India has extended to Bhutan, is greatly appreciated by all my people.

During my visit to New Delhi last April, I had fruitful and constructive talks with His Excellency Shri Morarji Desai, Prime Minister of India, and his senior colleagues in the Government on matters of common concern and interest. The dialogue which was initiated then was continued when the External Affairs Minister of India, His Excellency Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, visited Thimpu last November. As a result of these dialogues, there is now a much better understanding and awareness of each others' views and sensitivities on many issues. We must through mutual effort constantly strengthen our relations, resolve our problems and consolidate our friendship in a spirit of goodwill trust and accommodation. I am extremely happy at the current wide ranging talks which I am having with the Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister and other distinguished leaders of India and I am confident that the talks will lead to still greater cooperation between India and Bhutan, in bilateral and international spheres in the years to come.

Mr. President, I want you to know that my people and I place our complete trust and faith, in our friendship with India. I am confident that both India and Bhutan will continue to do everything possible to further strengthen Indo-Bhutan friendship, which is so important to the interest of both our countries. On my part it will be my constant endeavour, to work for the further strengthening of friendship, understanding and trust between India and Bhutan. Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I request you to join me in a toast to the health and long life of His Excellency the President of India, and to everlasting friendship between the peoples of India and Bhutan. Tashi Delek!

BHUTAN INDIA USA

Date: Mar 01, 1978

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DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Shri Jatti Hosts Dinner for Korean Vice-President

The Vice-President, Shri B.D. Jatti, held a dinner in honour of His Excellency Mr. Kang Ryang Uk, Vice-President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in New Delhi on March 15, 1978. Proposing the toast, Shri Jatti said:

Excellency, Friends, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you, Excellency, on your first visit to India and to the distinguished members of your delegation.

Our two countries are bound by age-old ties. They have been many fold cultural contacts between the peoples of our two countries in the past. These historical bonds have been renewed in modern times, particularly after the gaining of independence by India and the establishment of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It is a matter of satisfaction that close relations have developed between the two countries in political, economic and cultural fields.

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Our present Government, in India came to power on the crest of a massive popular mandate, through democratic elections which already have become a glorious chapter of contemporary history. The Government of India which has derived sustenance from this massive mandate has given the first priority to the building of a self-reliant economy to lift our people from want, disease, illiteracy and other evils. Our strength lies in the stability and wisdom of our society and the wide spectrum of modest achievements in the economic, scientific and technological fields.

In the field of foreign policy, we follow the policy of genuine non-alignment, which gives us full freedom to promote our international relations on the basis of complete respect for the Five Principles, which India established together with the People's Republic of China in 1954. These Principles have increasingly become the standard for the conduct of international relations. While we seek to improve our relations with all countries on the basis of beneficial bilatera-

lism, we have paid particular attention to the strengthening of our relations with neighbouring countries. We earnestly believe that our recent policy towards our neighbours has been a modest contribution to the fact that our sub-continent is no longer considered as one of the troubled areas of the world. It is our earnest feeling that the time is, therefore, opportune for the nations of the sub-continent, as independent nations living in close cooperation with each other on a basis of equality and mutual benefit, to realise the full constructive potential of the talents of their people and the resources of their fertile lands.

Excellency, we have studied with respect the implementation of the concept of Juche formulated by your great leader President Kim II Sung in your country. Abiding by the principles of solving the problems of nation-building independently in accordance with the actual conditions of your own country and through your own efforts, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has achieved significant results in the fields of economic, social, cultural, scientific and technological development. Since 1975 your country has joined the nonaligned movement. It is our sincere desire that in the traditional spirit which has characterised relations between India and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea we could together co-operate and contribute to the resolution of problems of international concern in the light of the ideals of the non-aligned nations.

The multi-faceted relations between India and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are progressing satisfactorily. Recently we have signed a new Trade Agreement which opens up vistas of economic cooperation. The Cultural Agreement between our two countries symbolises the desire of our peoples to encourage exchanges between our two peoples in diverse fields. Excellency, I am convinced that your visit will greatly contribute to the further strengthening of our relations to the mutual benefit of our two countries. Relations of mutual understanding and cooperation between India and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would further contribute to the growth of peace and

stability in Asia,

We are aware of the deep aspirations of the people of Korea to end the present artificial division of Korea into two parts. India has consistently supported all efforts for the peaceful reunification of Korea through direct bilateral discussions, without any outside intervention. We hope that meaningful steps will be taken in this direction.

May I now propose a toast to the health, long life and happiness of President Kim II Sung of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; to the health and happiness of Your Excellency; to the health and happiness of the members of the visiting delegation; and to the further growth of friendship and cooperation between the Governments and the Peoples of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and India.

KOREA UNITED KINGDOM INDIA USA CHINA

Date: Mar 01, 1978

Volume No

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DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

H.E. Mr. Uk's Speech

Replying to the toast, H.E. Mr. Kang Ryang Uk said:

Your Excellency esteemed Vice President B. D. Jatti, Your Excellency esteemed Prime Minister Morarji Desai, Your Excellencies and friends, I am very glad to pay a visit to beautiful India which has long cultural traditions and share such warm feelings of friendship with our close friends.

I express our thanks to you for joyfully receiving our Government delegation and to Your Excellency Vice President for the kind and inspiring speech just made for us.

I should like also to take this occasion to convey the friendly greetings of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Korean people to the Government of the Republic of India and the Indian people.

Both Korea and India are the non-aligned countries located in the Asian continent and our two peoples are interlinked by a bond of friendship because of the community of their past lots and the identity of their present aspiration for the country's independent development.

We have physically felt the friendly sentiments of the Indian people towards the Korean people since the moment of our arrival in your country.

Your warm hospitality and welcome accorded to us is a demonstration of the deep friendship of the Indian people towards the Korean people.

The Republic of India, one of the cradles of the ancient culture, has resourceful traditions which fought against imperialism and colonialism for a long period for the national independence.

Today the Indian people are striving for the country's independent development under the leadership of the Government of the Republic of India headed by His Excellency esteemed Mr. Prime Minister Morarji Desai.

Especially the Government of the Republic of India made a decision on giving the supreme priority to the rural development in the economic programme announced last year and greatly concentrated their efforts to the agricultural development and took various measures to improve the people's livelihood.

The Government of the Republic of India is enforcing the nonaligned policy in foreign

relations and endeavouring for peace and security against imperialism and colonialism.

We sincerely rejoice over the successes registered by the Indian people in the building of a new society and sincerely wish them greater successes in their future struggle for the country's independent development.

Your Excellencies and friends, the Korean people under the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade President Kim II Sung converted our country, once colonial semi-feudal society into a strong and powerful socialist independent sovereign state with the solid foundation of the independent national economy in a short period of time in its history, by embodying his Juche idea in all fields of the revolution and construction.

With the great honour of unchangeable attending in high esteem the great leader Comrade President Kim II Sung as President of the State, our people are now waging a vigorous struggle to fulfil the first year assignments of the Second Seven Year Plan, the grandiose programme of the socialist economic construction set forth by him at the First Session of the Sixth Supreme People's Assembly.

To reunify the divided country is the supreme national task which is becoming more urgent to the Korean people as time passes on.

The question of Korea's reunification must be settled by the Korean people themselves independently on the basis of democracy and by peaceful means.

The occupation of South Korea by the foreign troops is the main obstacle blocking the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

All the foreign troops should be withdrawn from South Korea and the Korean Armistice Agreement replaced with a peace agreement for the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

The Korean people will achieve the

country's independent and peaceful reunification at all costs under the active support and encouragement of the people of the nonaligned countries and the peace-loving peoples the world over.

Your Excellencies and friends, we will in the future, too, fight together with the Indian people in the common struggle against all sorts of aggression and interferences and for defending independence.

Above all things it is an important question for the non-aligned countries to struggle with the united strength against im-

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perialism, under the circumstances where the imperialists are intensifying their machinations to divide and destroy them at present.

The Korean people value the friendship with the Indian people and will continue to cement and develop such relations.

We believe that the current visit to your country by our Delegation will make a contribution to deepening mutual understanding and trust and more firmly strengthening the friendly and cooperative relations between the two Governments and peoples.

Before I conclude my speech at this place overflowing with the feelings of friendship I invite you to join me in a toast to the friendship and solidarity between the Korean people and the Indian people, to the long life and good health of His Excellency esteemed Mr. Sanjiva Reddy, President of the Republic of India, to the long life and good health of Comrade President Kim II Sung, the great leader of our people, to the health of Your Excellency esteemed Mr. B. D. Jatti, to the health of Your Excellency esteemed Prime Minister Mr. Morarji Desai, to the health of all your excellencies and friends present here.

KOREA UNITED KINGDOM INDIA USA

Date: Mar 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND ATOMIC ENERGY

Prime Minister's Statement in Lok Sabha on Supplies of Enriched Uranium by U.S.A. for Tarapur Station

The Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, made the following statement in the Lok Sabha on March 23, 1978 in response to a Calling Attention Notice by Shri O. P. Tyagi, Shri G. M. Banetwalla, Shri V. P. Sathe, Shri Mukhtiar Singh Malik, and Dr. Ramji Singh:

Enriched uranium which is not produced in India is required for the manufacture of fuel for the Tarapur Atomic Power Station but not for any of our other nuclear power stations which are of different designs. The bilateral agreement for cooperation between the Government of the United States and the Government of India provides that all requirements of enriched uranium for use as fuel at Tarapur shall be made available by the U.S. and that India shall not obtain these from any other sources. Accordingly, enriched uranium is being imported only from the U.S.A. On an average about 17 to 21 tonnes of enriched uranium is being imported only from the USA every year. In accordance with the current procedures in the United States, consignments of enriched uranium required for Tarapur Atomic Power Station are subject to an export licence to be given by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC), a quasi judicial body which is independent of the U.S. Government Executive Branch. These export licence applications for enriched uranium are considered by the USNRC after clearance is conveyed by the Executive Branch. Presently two licences are pending with U.S. Department of Energy for 7.6 tonnes and 16.7 tonnes of enriched uranium respectively. The consignment of 7.6 tonnes was due to have been shipped in September 1977 and Licence

XSNM 1222 applied for on 1st November, 1977 is scheduled for shipment between April and October 1978. These requirements closely follow the schedules worked out in consultations with experts deputed by the U.S.A. for this purpose in September, 1976.

The despatch of the first consignment was delayed because the non-proliferation Bill dealing with long-term policy of the U.S. Government was under the consideration of the Congress. Nevertheless during his visit to India in January, 1978, President Carter announced in Parliament that the shipments of nuclear fuel will be made for the Tarapur Reactor. On 26th January, 1978, the Exe-

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cutive Branch of the U.S. Government recommended to the U.S. NRC that the licence for the pending application for 7.6 tonnes of enriched uranium be issued. On February 13, 1978, three environmentalists Groups in the U.S.A. namely, the National Resources Defence Council, the Union of Concerned Scientists and the Sierra Club who had also objected to an earlier shipment, submitted a motion requesting the NRC to reopen the public hearings of May 7, 1976 on the Tarapur fuel exports and to consolidate the proceedings on both the pending licences for 7.6 tonnes and 16.7 tonnes. On February 21, 1978, the Executive Branch urged the NRC that the issue of the pending licence for 7.6 tonnes for which executive clearance had been given should not be further delayed. The U.S. NRC has not yet taken a decision whether or not to hold public hearings on the export licence application for Tarapur Atomic Power Station which is presently pending with them. It is reported that a decision could not be taken on this question at meetings held by the U.S. NRC on 16th March, 1978 and 20th March, 1978 on account of the absence of two members. The Chairman of the NRC has deferred decision pending consultation with the other two members.

Government have constantly been impressing upon the US authorities the necessity of maintaining continued supplies of enriched uranium for the Tarapur Atomic

Power Station in accordance with the intergovernmental agreement and the subsequent sale contract between the two countries. It has been pointed out that delays in supplies of enriched uranium have already adversely affected the functioning of Nuclear Fuel Complex at Hyderabad and also resulted in involuntary reduction in the output of power at Tarapur. The delay is not due, however, to any policy issue but on account of procedural requirements. We believe that the U.S. Administration is doing its best to expedite the disposal of the objections taken but the final decision on the objections is not in their hands.

As a result of the delay the power output is also suffering. We are trying to ensure supplies to avoid a complete shut-down and already there has been partial adverse effect on production of energy. In the circumstances we are faced with, this is inevitable. I only hope that the U.S. Administration will succeed in getting the objections overruled and shipments would be resumed before long.

INDIA MALI UNITED KINGDOM RUSSIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Mar 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND ATOMIC ENERGY

Supply of Heavy Water by Soviet Union

The following is the text of the written reply by the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, in the Rajya Sabha on March 9, 1978, on an agreement about the price and delivery terms for the second lot of heavy water from the U.S.S.R.:

A contract was entered into between

M/s Techsnabexport, of the Government of USSR and the Department of Atomic Energy in September, 1976 for the supply of 200 metric tonnes of heavy water out of which 55 tonnes were received during 1976. Price and delivery terms in respect of the remaining quantity of 145 tonnes which was to be supplied in a phased manner in 1977 and 1978 were to be negotiated. The entire quantity of heavy water supplied by the USSR to the Government of India was required to be placed under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards. Discussions were therefore held between the Department of Atomic Energy and the International Atomic Energy Agency and an agreement was signed in November, 1977. Subsequently, price and delivery terms in respect of the second lot of heavy water (out of the remaining quantity of 145 tonnes) were negotiated with M/s Techsnabexport and agreement has now been reached for the supply of 70 tonnes.

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INDIA USA

Date: Mar 01, 1978

Volume No

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INDIA AND DISARMAMENT

Shri Vajpayee's Address at inauguration of Workshop on Disarmament

The following is the text of Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's speech at the inauguration of the Workshop on Disarmament, in New Delhi on March 27, 1978:

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, Friends, I should like to begin by expressing my gratitude to the organisers of this international Workshop on Disarmament for having invited me to speak to the distinguished gathering assembled here today. I congratulate the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies for having taken the initiative in organising this Workshop.

It needs no reiteration that Disarmament and Development are two most vital questions that face mankind today. Both these issues are closely inter-related. It is, therefore, but appropriate that this Workshop should have been organised by the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies - which is engaged in studies covering all aspects of development.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome delegates from abroad, who have assembled here today. I need hardly add how happy and privileged we feel to have you in our midst. Your presence here today is indicative of the consciousness of importance and urgency of the problems relating to Disarmament. I sincerely hope that the deliberations engaging you for the next few days will be fruitful and rewarding.

In less than two months from now, the United Nations will convene a Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament. The United Nations has a specific responsibility within the framework of the UN Charter, for all matters pertaining to disarmament and, in particular, to the ultimate goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control. The Charter of the United Nations envisaged the establishment of a system for the regulation of armaments that would assure, in the words of the Charter, "the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources."

From its very inception, the United Nations has spared no effort to implement the provisions of the Charter dealing with disarmament measures. Indeed, the very first Resolution adopted by the General Assembly in January, 1946, called for specific proposals for the elimination of atomic weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. Over the years, the United Nations has made

constant and determined efforts aimed at the limitation of armaments both nuclear and conventional, and has urged the ending of the arms race.

In its Declaration on the occasion of the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the United Nations, adopted on October 24, 1970, the General Assembly addressed itself to the question of disarmament with these words:

"On the threshold of the Disarmament Decade, we welcome the important international agreements which have already been achieved in the limitation of armaments, especially nuclear arms. Conscious of the long and difficult search for ways to halt and reverse the arms race and of the grave threat to international peace posed by the continuing development of sophisticated weapons, we look forward to the early conclusion of further agreements of this kind and to moving forward from arms limitation to a reduction of armaments and to disarmament everywhere, particularly in the nuclear field, with the participation of all nuclear powers. We call upon all Governments to renew their determination to make concrete progress towards the elimination of the arms race and the achievement of the final goal - general and complete disarmament under effective international control."

That same year, the General Assembly also adopted a Declaration on the strengthening of international security. In that document, the Assembly not only stressed the close connection between international security, disarmament and the economic development of countries, "so that any progress

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made towards any of these objectives will constitute progress towards all of them", but urged all States, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, to make pressing and concerted efforts for the cessation and reversal of the nuclear and conventional arms race at an early date, the elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and the conclusion of a treaty on general and

complete disarmament under effective international control.

It is thus clear that if disarmament has not succeeded, it is not because of lack of effort or interest on the part of the community of nations. And yet the fact remains that we have not achieved any real disarmament. The developments during the past decade in the field of armaments are extremely disturbing. The arms race, escalating over the years, has reached an alarming stage and has far outstripped the pace of disarmament negotiations. Nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction continue to be developed and stockpiled, threatening the very survival of mankind.

The existing stockpiles of nuclear weapons represent about 15 tons of TNT Per person on the globe. This has been often described as the overkill capacity of weapons of mass destruction, existing in the arsenals of the world, which can destroy each man, woman and child in the world several times over if such a thing were possible. The total world military expenditure has reached the staggering figure of nearly \$ 400 billion a year which is more than \$ 1 billion per day. In comparative terms, the total current world military expenditure is equal to the total world-wide government expenditure on education and about twice as large as what the government spends on health and medical facilities. This massive use of resources and skills for military purposes diverts valuable assets from social and economic progress. There can be nothing more ironic than the fact that some of the finest brains in the world are engaged in devising the quickest ways of killing when they should be working on enhancing the happiness and well-being of the peoples of the world.

As against the mad and irrational momentum of the arms race, the progress in the field of disarmament has been painfully and distressingly slow; the results achieved so far, meagre and disappointing. The various bilateral and multilateral agreements that have been concluded until now have barely touched the fringes of the arms race and have utterly failed to provide momentum for

stopping much less, reversing it.

The international community has long viewed this appalling situation with the greatest concern and has demanded that urgent steps be taken to achieve the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control. They have demanded that the highest priority should be accorded to the reduction and eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

It would be recognised that there has been an impasse in the disarmament efforts of the international community. Men and women of goodwill all over the world want to see this deadlock broken so that progress can be made in the direction of comprehensive and genuine disarmament. There is an urgent need to examine critically the basic assumptions and theories on which the current disarmament thinking has been built and to discard old and outdated ideas and assumptions. Wrong premises and faulty theories need to be corrected. It is only through this process that we can ensure lasting international peace and security.

Undoubtedly, the problems of nuclear disarmament will engage the attention of the delegates who will attend the Special Session. This is, as it should be, since the threat of nuclear weapons, which has faced mankind for more than 30 years, has in no way been diminished. The development and sophistication of nuclear weapons is continuing even today. The number of nuclear weapon tests conducted after the Moscow Partial Test Ban Treaty is far more than those conducted prior to it. In fact even a few days ago, there was an under-round weapon test. We have been told for sometime that a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is round the corner. and that it would definitely be finalised before the Special Session. Now we are told that it would be ready before the end of the vear.

At the last session of the United Nations General Assembly, I said that nuclear weapons were dangerous whether they are in the possession of one country, some countries or many countries. I also said that India was not only against the proliferation of nuclear weapons but against nuclear weapons themselves. We were the first country to plead at

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the United Nations more than 20 years ago for a ban on the testing of all nuclear weapons. We are not a nuclear weapon power and have no intention of being one. At the same time we are deeply committed to a programme for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy upon which we embarked nearly 25 years ago. We shall oppose any move or measure that would stand in the way of peaceful utilization of nuclear energy. We shall also oppose moves and measures that are discriminatory in nature.

When we discuss nuclear disarmament, we are told by some that nuclear weapons are necessary as a deterrent against war that it is only the assurance of their use that constitutes the core of deterrence. We are informed that there are regions of the world where stability and security can be maintained only through this deterrence implicit in the retention of nuclear weapons and that nuclear disarmament would disturb the strategic balance that exists in these regions.

At the same time, there is no dearth of proposals for having nuclear weapon free zones in selected areas, the contention being that South Asia can be a nuclear weaponfree zone whereas in Euruope, this is not possible.

In our view, nuclear disarmament, like disarmament in other forms, must be a global and universal phenomenon. The whole world should be rendered free of nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons free zones of a merely regional character will not diminish the nuclear threat to the world; on the contrary, such a step would provide an advantage to the nuclear weapon States, particularly as these weapons, with their delivery systems, are intercontinental in nature. Therefore, we now remain as in the past, opposed to the declaration of South Asia, or for that matter, any artificially restricted area, being declared as nuclear weapon-free zone.

We would like to see the Special Session come out very clearly on the need to reduce and eliminate all existing stockpiles of nuclear weapons. Perhaps in this connection, the Special Session could consider reiterating the provisions of Resolution 1653, adopted in 1961, by which the General Assembly declared that use of nuclear and thermo-nuclear Weapons was contrary to the spirit, letter and aims of United Nations and a crime against mankind and civilisation,

I need hardly emphasize that the decision to hold the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament has been widely welcomed. This Session should not only revive world interest and rekindle the influence of public opinion in favour of Disarmament, but must also come up with precise goals and priorities and a time-bound realistic Programme of Action. It must not lapse into a forum for expressing pious hopes and high sounding platitudes, but, should succeed in laying down clear directives for what has to be done in the field of Disarmament. The peoples of the world will expect us to come up with answers to at least some of the issues and situation that have overtaken them, for no fault of theirs. This time, we cannot and must not fail.

The Government of India consider that the Special Session provides an excellent and timely opportunity to revive the momentum which was clearly apparent in the late fifties and early sixties leading upto the September 1961 US-USSR Joint Statement of Agreed Principles. Unfortunately, this momentum was not followed up with the vigour and determination the issues warranted. But let us not brood over the past and the numerous opportunities we missed. Rather, let us jointly resolve not to waste the present opportunity when conditions appear to be favourable for a significant breakthrough.

In conclusion, I should like to express the hope that the deliberations and conclusions of this Workshop will contribute significantly to arousing and stimulating public opinion which, as has been rightly said, can become a global constituency for disarmament. No effort should be spared in raising public awareness to the dangers of the arms race and the benefits that can accrue from disarmament. The role of non-governmental organisations and the importance of international seminars and Workshops in generating the necessary political will, by mobilising public opinion against the arms race and in favour of disarmament, can be crucial.

I have great pleasure in inaugurating this Disarmament Workshop and I wish it all success.

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INDIA USA OMAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC RUSSIA

Date: Mar 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND ESCAP

Objectives of the Third Development Decade

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on March 9, 1978 of Shri Mohan Dharia's address in ESCAP session:

India has stressed the need for structural changes in order to establish a New International Economic Order, to bring about improvement in the standards of living and to remove poverty all over the world in the Third Development Decade (the 1980s). This was stated in the address of the Leader of the Indian Delegation, Shri Mohan Dharia, Union Minister for Commerce, Civil Supplies & Cooperation, in the 34th Annual Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific at Bangkok Yesterday.

Shri Dharia said that the achievement of collective self-reliance by developing countries should be an integral element of the New Order. He pointed out that only a greater and confident spirit of self-reliance on the part of the developing countries could guarantee the restructuring implied in the New Order.

The Minister said that the concept of collective self-reliance meant willingness on the part of the developing countries to explore and pursue the immense possibilities of cooperation among themselves in financial, technical, trade and industrial spheres. He pointed out that India had always supported initiatives on the part of the developing countries for regional and global economic cooperation. The recent arrangement for exchanging preferences among the developing countries of the ESCAP region, popularly known as Bangkok Agreement was a step in the right direction, he remarked.

Outlining the steps taken by India in this direction, Shri Dharia said that within our resources we had tried to promote such cooperation with the countries in this region in the field of technology, industrial production end trade. He expressed satisfaction that the ESCAP Committee on Trade had considered the first draft of the blue print for intra-regional trade expansion prepared by the Secretariat and the meeting of Trade Ministers of the region is proposed to be convened in New Delhi in mid-August, 1978.

REGIONAL CENTRE

Welcoming the initiative taken by ESCAP for the establishment of the Regional Centre for Transfer of Technology at Banglore, the Minister said that it should be our endeavour to see that over a period of time, this Centre became a focal point for generation and dissemination of appropriate technology in this region. There was a good deal that could be learnt from each other's experience and India's offer to share its technological knowledge and expertise with codeveloping countries was already on record, he added.

Stressing the need to bring about improvement in the standards of living and removal of poverty for the establishment of the New Order, Shri Dharia said that the Government of India were committed towards this approach to economic development in the country. In national economic plan, now being finalised by the new Government, it was proposed to change the priorities in favour of rapid development of agriculture and decentralised industrial sectors. The objective was to fulfil the basic needs of people below poverty line, like nutrition, housing, health, sanitation and education, he added.

Shri Dharia said that the basic components of strategy in achieving this in India would lie in terms of creating as rapidly as possible employment opportunities in agricultural sector and cottage and small scale industries. While bulk of this required investments would be done through our own resources, our march towards fulfilling these needs would be rapid only if international economic order was just and equitable, he remarked.

APPALLING INEQUALITIES

Commenting on the appalling inequalities in the prevailing Economic Order, the

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Minister said that a small number of countries had at their command 80 per cent of the world trade, nearly 95 per cent of the private investment and an overwhelming share of world industry, technology and the ability to command and consume 70 per cent of the global resources while two-thirds of the human race continued to live in conditions of poverty unemployment, illiteracy, disease and malnutrition. In order to rectify the situation, he stressed the need for early international agreements on the implementation of the Integrated Programme for Commodities and the establishment of the Common Fund as its key instrument.

The Minister warned the ESCAP about the danger of the protectionists tendencies growing in the developed countries. He

pointed out that while India fully appreciated the problems of the developed countries in sensitive sectors and the need on their part to devise solutions which would meet the urgent political problems, it was necessary for the international community to look upon the whole process in a longer perspective. The increased opportunities for exports from developing countries would only create greater demand for the products of developed countries and thereby enable better utilisation of the industrial capacities and a higher rate of employment for the developed countries. The restructuring of the industrial production on the basis of comparative advantage would ultimately lead to higher production, employment and trade flows in the long run, he added.

Commenting on India's experience of national development during the last decade, the Minister said that although we did have significant achievements in terms of changing industrial structure and advanced towards economic independence, problems of adequate employment and levels of living remains largely unsolved. He pointed out that the new Government had resolved to fulfil the national objective of having self-reliant growth and fulfilling the basic requirements of each citizen of the country.

DECENTRALIZATION

Shri Dharia said that in our preoccupations with measures for upliftment of man, we often lost sight of man himself, which was the cause of the existing distortions in the world economic and social structure. It was man who created science and technology, but the prevalent disparities made one feel that man himself had become the slave, he remarked.

Shri Dharia said that to expect peace when millions of people were facing abject poverty and inhuman conditions was too absurd to think. It was in this context that philosophy of decentralisation of both political and economic power, as preached by Mahatma Gandhi, assumed great relevance. Harnessing of modern science and technology and the vast resources created by man in

the larger interest of the world community would alone provide everlasting peace, cooperation and co-existence, he added.

INDIA USA

Date: Mar 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND I. L. O.

India Ratifies Convention

The following is the text of a press release issued in New DON on March 1, 1978 on India ratifying the I. L. O. Convention:

India has ratified the I. L. O. Convention No. 144 envisaging tripartite consultations to promote the implementation of international labour standards.

The Instrument of Ratification was presented by Shri K. S. Raghupati, Secretary in the Ministry of Labour, to Mr. Francis Blanchard, Director General of the I.L.O., at a ceremony held in Geneva on February 27. Shri Naval Tata and Shri Kanti Mehta, representing the Indian employers and workers respectively, were present.

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Accepting the Instrument of Ratification, Mr. Blanchard said that India was one of the foremost countries to ratify the Convention. This was India's 34th ratification of the I.L.O. Conventions.

Mr. Blanchard praised India's role in furthering the activities of the International Labour Organisation and said that the voluntary contribution that India had made to the ILO was noteworthy coming as it did from a developing country.

Date: Mar 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND INDIAN OCEAN

Shri Vajpayee's Statement on Reported Presence of Naval Powers in Indian Ocean

The Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee made the following statement in the Rajya Sabha on March 1, 1978. He was speaking in reply to a Calling Attention Notice by Shri H. D. Malviya and Shri V. P. Dutt:

The House is fully aware of the Government's view that the military presence of Great Powers in Indian Ocean is a cause of tension and insecurity in the area and total elimination of all foreign bases from the area is a necessary condition for maintaining it as a Zone of Peace. India regards the participation of Great Powers and major maritime users of Indian Ocean in the proposed international Conference of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean to be convened in New York for implementing the UN Resolutions on the establishment of Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace as essential. It is our hope that any bilateral understanding agreement reached by the Great Powers shall incline them to extend increased cooperation to the UN in this matter. India has, therefore, welcomed talks between the USA and the USSR on arms limitation measures in the Indian Ocean as a step towards its establishment as a Zone of Peace. Our steadfast objective remains that of eventual demilitarisation of the Indian Ocean

I may mention that when the question of Indian Ocean was discussed with President

Carter, our Prime Minister has stated very clearly and categorically that as a result of talks between the USA and the Soviet Union, nothing should be left in the Indian Ocean except peace. In other worlds, there should be no further strengthening of existing foreign bases, that no new bases are established and that all existing foreign bases are eliminated.

Our view has been that while the Indian Ocean is open for freedom of navigation, a dangerous situation is created when the presence of big powers gets escalated in the form of rivalry and establishment of bases. That is why we are in favour of complete demilitarisation of the Indian Ocean rather than only stabilisation or freezing of forces there. In this context, recent deployment of naval forces of Great Powers in the Indian Ocean has caused us deep concern. We are in no position to accurately assess the increased strength of such presence compared to that in the previous months. We do, however, hold the view that such foreign naval presence in the region acts as an impediment to the lessening of the tension in the area, and turns the clock back away from progress in the establishment of a Zone of Peace in the Indian Ocean to which the international community is committed.

As a member of the UN Ad Hoc Committee on the subject, India is actively participating in the implementation of the UN resolution on Zone of Peace in the Indian Ocean. All littoral and Hinterland States also share our view in regard to the elimination of foreign military presence from the Indian Ocean. We will continue to watch very carefully the resultant situation arising out of increasing military activities by the Great Powers in the Indian Ocean.

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Having said this, let me state that both USA and USSR are keeping us informed about the progress of talks between them on questions concerned with arms limitation measures in the Indian Ocean. In the round of talks held in Berne from February 7 to 17, characterised by both sides as frank and useful, some progress has been achieved.

Sir, we regard the activities of Great Powers in regard to the establishment of Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace as a touchstone for their commitment towards detente and for the spread of its benefits for the international community as a whole. We very much hope that the Great Powers would exercise restraint and that the situation in the Horn of Africa would get defused, thereby creating a better political atmosphere for these talks when resumed. On this matter. our Prime Minister is in touch with both President Brezhnev and President Carter. In addition, in the framework of the UN Ad Hoe Committee, we would continue to strive to build an international climate of opinion conducive to an early establishment of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SWITZERLAND PERU

Date: Mar 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND JOINT VENTURES

No Exploitation in India's Joint Ventures Abroad

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on March 28, 1978 when Shri Dharia inaugurated a workshop on Turnkey projects:

The industrial projects and joint ventures launched by India in other developing countries should be symbols of friendship and not monuments of exploitation. These ventures are expected to strengthen the bonds of friendship which India has forged within the developing world and should be in consonance with our sincere desire to cooperate with other developing countries to enable them to expand their industrial and infra-

structural base for their own economic development. Any proposal for such ventures which has an element of exploitation, even indirectly, will not, therefore, be approved by the Government.

This was announced, here today, by Shri Mohan Dharia, Union Minister for Commerce, Civil Supplies & Cooperation, while inaugurating a workshop on "Turnkey Projects" organised by the Engineering Export Promotion Council. The deliberations of the two-day workshop will include all aspects of the problems - regarding projects exports including pre-contract issues, policy and procedure, inputs and finance.

Responding to a suggestion made by the Chairman of the E.E.P.C. regarding the creation of a nodal point in the Ministry of Commerce to study the recommendations made by the Workshop, Shri Dharia indicated the formation of a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri R. D. Thapar, Commerce Secretary, to look into these issues. The Committee will involve the representatives of the concerned Ministries of the Government and other agencies like IDBI.

ADVICE FOR FORMATION OF CONSORTIA

The Minister warned the project exporters about the danger of cut throat competition among themselves and highlighted the need for consortia approach among Indian firms, whether they be in the public or private sector. He pointed out that the exporting companies even of the developed countries were forming such consortia in overseas projects which were formidable in nature.

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Referring to the problems of project exports to countries in the oil rich West Asia and North Africa Region, Shri Dharia said that these countries were in a tremendous hurry to invest the huge amounts of earnings from oil in development projects and, although the competition in the region was quite fierce, we should compete taking advantage of geographical proximity of our

country with the region and our own capacity to offer technical services at comparatively lower costs. He, however, pointed out that in these countries we had to offer goods that the market demanded rather than those that we would like that market to buy. The Minister said that it was in recognition of this basic principle that we were negotiating with the developing countries for entering into arrangements for cooperation in the execution of projects in third countries. This was done in our negotiations with teams from USA, in our Joint Commission with EEC and also in the recent talks with the British delegation led by Mr. Edmund Dell, he added.

APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY

The Minister pointed out that the problems of project exports in the countries of Africa, South of Sahara and in South and East Asia were entirely different from those in the WANA region. These countries were quite willing to accept the technology offered by us, especially where they find that the conditions in their countries were broadly similar to those obtaining in India. He said that India was definitely identified as one of the leading spokesmen of the developing countries and this gave an initial advantage to Indian firms offering to execute projects in the developing countries in Asia or Africa.

The Minister pointed out that India had now risen to the position of the tenth industrialised nation in the world and was committed to assist other developing countries which had yet to catch up with us. We had accepted our role in the transfer of appropriate technology to the developing countries and it was not a coincidence that India supplied the services of a fairly large number of experts to different developing countries, under the programmes sponsored by various international organisations. He urged the workshop to identify the problems of project exports in such countries in Africa and Asia.

Referring to the problems of such projects where the technology offered

by us was acceptable to the Project Authority abroad, but there were severe competition from other countries, the Minister pointed out that our machinery manufacturers did not have the advantage of operating a plant of the optimum size from the economic point of view. Our own machinery manufacturing industry was built up behind a considerably high tariff wall and this had led to the setting up of units based on the quantum of resources available. Fortunately, with the advantage of foreign exchange reserves, the country was now in a position to adopt a more liberal attitude towards imports of equipments, spare parts and accessories, he added.

Shri Dharia also referred to the liberal credit terms offered by Japan and other developed countries for purchase of plant and equipment and said that we had ourselves recognised the need for allowing export of capital equipment to take place on deferred terms. Although it would be difficult for us to match the credit terms of the rich countries, we had never hesitated to decide on lines of credit whenever the need was felt by us. In this respect he made a reference to the lines of credit offered to Vietnam for supply of wheat and equipments.

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INDIA USA RUSSIA JAPAN VIETNAM

Date: Mar 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

IRAN

Princess Ashraf Calls on Shri Jatti

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on March 1, 1978 on the visit of Princess Ashraf to India:

Her Imperial Highness Princess Ashraf Pahlavi of Iran, called on the Vice-President. Shri B. D. Jatti, in New Delhi on March 1, 1978. She is on a seven-day visit to India.

They exchanged views oil matters of mutual interest for half an hour. Princess Ashraf showed keen interest in meditation and yoga and made a number of queries and said that it was spreading all over the world.

Earlier, the Princess paid a visit to Rajghat to pay her homage to the Father of the Nation. After placing the wreath at the Samadhi, she stood in silence. Thereafter, she was presented seventy volumes of the Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

IRAN INDIA

Date: Mar 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Japanese Loan to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on March 22, 1978 on the extension of a Japanese loan to India:

India and Japan exchanged in New Delhi on March 22, 1978, Notes concerning two Project Loans for an amount of 9.7 billion Yen (Rs. 34.64 crores) for India for the year 1977-78. Of this 8.4 billion yen is for the Nagarjunasagar Project in Andhra Pradesh and 1.3 billion Yen for the Jayakwadi Project in Maharashtra.

The Notes were exchanged between His Excellency Mr. Takashi Suzuuki, Ambassador of Japan to India and Dr. Manmohan Singh, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India on behalf of their respective Governments.

The total commitments to India by Japan under the 17th Yen Credit, including the Commodity Loan for an amount of 20 billion Yen (Rs. 71.43 crores) agreed to on 19th August, 1977 would be 29.7 billion Yen (Rs. 106.07 crores) for the year 1977-78.

JAPAN INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA

Date: Mar 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Joint Meeting of Japan-India Committees

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on March 29, 1978 on the Joint Meeting of Japan and India Committees:

The two-day meeting of the India and Japan Committees started in New Delhi on March 29. In his opening remarks the Chairman of the Indian delegation, Shri Badr-ud-Din Tyabji said that these committees should make a positive effort to identify areas of mutual interest and recommend to their respective Governments specific projects which would benefit both the countries.

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Mr. Shinsaku Hogen, leader of the Japanese delegation said that frank and free discussions, between the two teams, on Indo-Japanese relations in the light of developing economic and political situations in the two countries, should be held.

In the two-day talks the meeting would review the nature and functions of the India and Japan committees and hold talks on economic cooperation, trade and joint collaborations in the third World countries, and survey of Indian economic situation. The discussion will also be held on Indo-Japanese coperation in Science & Technology and Education & Culture.

In his introductory address on the objectives and functions of the Japan Committee, Mr. Saburo Okita, a Member of the Japanese delegation said that the purpose of the Committee was to establish a new channel of contact between the two countries independent of and yet not unrelated to the activities in the governmental and business levels.

It may be recalled that India Committee was reconstituted recently with Shri Badrud-Din Tyabji as the Chairman. The other members are: Shri V. G. Rajadhyaksha, Member, Planning Commission; Dr. M. S. Swaminathan, Director General, ICAR; Dr. B. V. Mehta, Head of Department of Economics, South Gujarat University; Dr. Charat Ram, Managing Director, The Delhi Cloth & General Mills Co. Ltd; Dr. Freddie Mehta, Economic Adviser, Tata Consultancy Services; Dr. A. Ramachandran, Secretary, Ministry of Science & Technology; Shri P. Sabanayagam, Secretary, Ministry of Education; Shri R. P. S. Verma, Secretary, India Committee and Smt. Kamala Shastri, Jt. Director & Editor of Japan quarterly.

JAPAN INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Mar 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on March 31, 1978:

The possibilities of production cooperation and joint venture with Japan in third countries was discussed when Mr. Elichi Hashimoto, Chairman of the India Committee for Japan, called on Shri Mohan Dharia, Union Minister for Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation, in New Delhi on March 31, 1978.

Indicating the broad frame work of India's policy towards collaboration with other countries. Shri Dharia said that the purpose was to enlarge the agricultural and industrial infrastructure in the country as well to create more employment for our people. The possibilities of India's participation in Japanese Ventures in the oil rich Gulf countries also figured in the discussion.

India's two-way trade with Japan has steadily increased during the last two decades. Our exports to Japan had increased from 1822.7 million in 1971-72 to Rs. 4268.8 million in 1975-76 and Rs. 5402.4 million in 1976-77. We have a favourable balance of trade with Japan which was of the order of Rs. 2431.9 million in 1976-77.

Our main items of exports to Japan are fish fresh and simply preserved, cashew kernel, raw cotton, tobacco, unmanufactured iron ore and concentrates, leather, precious and semi-precious stones, etc. Our main import from Japan consist mainly of Iron & Steel, fertilizers, Chemicals, Synthetic fibres, electrical and non-electric material and plastic materials.

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Date: Mar 01, 1978

Volume No

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MALAYSIA

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

The Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, held a dinner in honour of His Excellency Tangku Ahmad Rithauddeen, Foreign Minister of Malaysia in New Delhi on March 29, 1978. Proposing the toast, Shri Vajpayee said:

Your Excellency, Madam Rithauddeen. Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure in extending once again a warm and cordial welcome to you and to the Members of your delegation, on the occasion of your first official visit to our country. We have looked forward to your visit that provides us with an opportunity to re-affirm the unique links of friendship and goodwill which hold our peoples together.

I do not have to recite the long history of physical contact and cultural communion between our peoples. Suffice it to say that these contacts stretch-back in time, beyond the recorded history to the dim past, when, we reached out for each other and came to share many values which are part and parcel of our cultural heritage today. Along the pathways of history we conversed with each other, we understood each other and we established enduring links whose impact is felt even today, in our mind and heart. In the recent past we came under and struggled against the same imperial power and broke the shackles of colonialism, to regain our independence, in order to build a new life for our peoples.

Both our countries are engaged today in

a common endeavour, to give meaning to independence and dignity to human existence, to bring the fruits of man's expanding knowledge of the universe and increasing control over his environment within the reach of our masses, to create a society free from fear, from want, from discrimination and from exploitation. We realise that in this challenging endeavour, while we determine our priorities and our methods in accordance with the genius of our peoples, we have a great deal to learn from each other by sharing our experience. It is this realisation which gives old ties a compelling contemporary significance.

Excellency, we have noted with admiration the great economic strides that your country has taken since Merdeka and the judicious course it has followed in planning economic development. We wish you every success in the implementation of your current Plan whose principal aim, I understand, is not only eradication of poverty but the elimination of disparities, social and regional. Indeed, the success of your programme of economic transformation would only reinforce the remarkable degree of political stability and social integration within a democratic framework that you have already attained. Tolerance and secular approach come naturally to your people and it is not surprising that they underlie your national policies. They also serve to re-assure all of us that in this world of ours, often rocked by pride and prejudice, where vestiges of religious discrimination still haunt us, brotherhood of man will ultimately prevail.

In our own country since our independence we have also been engaged in the task of creating a society free from injustice, discrimination and exploitation and of giving economic content to political independence. We have succeeded to quite some extent in creating a scientific, industrial and technological base which would facilitate the future growth of our economy. But like other developing countries which have only lately become masters of their destiny, we have a long way to go. We are convinced that cooperation with all is indispensable, as the task is

not only to accelerate national development but to re-shape the world we live in.

Excellency, it is in this spirit that India and Malaysia have been constantly exploring all possible avenues of mutually beneficial cooperation and have achieved some striking results, particularly in the field of industrial development and transfer of technology. Your visit, I am confident, will give a fresh impetus to this process.

India and Malaysia have been cooperating with each other in various international forums. We have profited from each other's

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perceptions and ideas of the contemporary world and along with other non-aligned and developing countries have exerted ourselves to bring into being a new international order based on justice and equality. If humanity is to survive and move towards a new world. brotherhood of man, inter-dependence of nations, peaceful co-existence and international cooperation must not remain ideals or pious phrases but become palpable realities. For this we have to continue to work together and in concert with other like-minded countries.

Both in South East and South East Asia there is today a new climate of hope. New avenues of cooperation are opening up. There is an air of expectancy and I hope that in expanding the areas of understanding and friendly cooperation the leaders will not fail their peoples. We do not regard regionalism as in any way contradictory either to nationalism or internationalism.

It is in this context that we appreciate the enormous contribution your country hag made in promoting regional cooperation in South East Asia and reconciliation among the states of the region. It is in this context also that we have extended our full and unreserved support to the ASEAN which we regard as a genuine and legitimate manifestation of the common urge of neighbouring states to come closer to each other. This is also the reason why we have always supported the concept of Zone of Peace, Freedom and

Neutrality in South East Asia, since your great country pioneered it. We hope that the current trends will add to the inner strength of our peoples and regions to withstand external pressures and to lay the foundation for the edifice of Asian solidarity in time to come.

Your Excellency, your visit is brief, much to our regret. But we hope you will take back with you some abiding impressions, of the warmth and cordiality with which our people regard your country and your people.

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I now request you to join me in drinking a toast to the health and well-being of His Excellency Tangku Rithauddeen and Madam Rithauddeen; and to the ever-lasting and growing friendship of our two countries.

MALAYSIA INDIA USA PERU

Date: Mar 01, 1978

Volume No

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MALAYSIA

First Cultural Agreement between India and Malaysia

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on March 30, 1978 on the cultural agreement signed between India and Malaysia:

The first Cultural Agreement between India and Malaysia was signed in New Delhi on March 30, 1978. The two signatories were Dr. P. C. Chunder Minister of Education, Social Welfare and Culture, and H.E. Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia.

The Agreement envisages strengthening of existing friendship between the two coun-

tries and adoption of specific measures to promote further understanding and cooperation in the fields of culture, music and literature, education and research, science and technology, mass media, and sports and youth activities.

India and Malaysia will endeavour to provide students from each other's country facilities for admission to their educational institutions. They will also ensure that audiovisual materials prescribed in their respective educational and professional institutions do not include such materials as tend to misrepresent the way of life and culture of each other's country.

Reciprocal visits by cultural, sport and youth groups of non-political nature will also be exchanged.

For the fulfilment of the objectives of the Agreement, a joint committee may be established for reviewing periodically its working.

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Date: Mar 01, 1978

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MALAYSIA

Joint Communique

The following is the text of the India-Malaysia Joint Communique:

On the invitation of the Minister of External Affairs of India, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, H.E. Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen, paid an official visit to India from March 29 to April 1, 1978.

During his visit, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia was received by H.E. the President of India and H.E. the Prime Minister. The Foreign Minister of Malaysia had discussions with the Minister of External Affairs and the Minister of Education, Social Welfare and Cultural Affairs of India.

During his stay in India, the Foreign Minister of Malaysia and his party visited Delhi, Agra and Bombay.

The Foreign Minister of Malaysia and the Minister of External Affairs of India exchanged views on bilateral relations as well as current international and regional issues of common interest. These discussions took place in an atmosphere of friendship, cordiality and understanding, which traditionally characterise Indo-Malaysian relations. The two sides noted with deep satisfaction the close identity of views on various issues of mutual interest.

Both Ministers noted with satisfaction the continuing consolidation of their bilateral relations and progress in friendly cooperation between Malaysia and India in different fields, a testimony to the long historical and cultural ties between the two countries. They reaffirmed the determination of their Governments to further strengthen and expand economic, cultural and other ties between the two countries. As a manifestation of this desire, the two Ministers welcomed the signing of the Cultural Agreement during the visit.

The Foreign Minister of Malaysia informed the Minister of External Affairs of India of developments in Malaysia and efforts at achieving socioeconomic progress. The Foreign Minister of Malaysia also acquainted the Minister of External Affairs of India on the various aspects of Malaysia's foreign policy particularly with reference to the promotion of regional co-operation and understanding in South-East Asia. The Minister of External Affairs of India expressed his government's understanding and appreciation of the Malaysian policies.

The Minister of External Affairs of India informed the Foreign Minister of Malaysia of developments in India. He explained various measures taken by India for economic development and for the improvement of the living standards of the Indian people. He also gave the Foreign Minister of Malaysia a broad outline of the foreign policy of the new Government of India. The Foreign Minister of Malaysia expressed his Government's appreciation of these policies and the progress achieved in this regard.

The Minister of External Affairs of India informed the Foreign Minister of Malaysia of the recent developments which had enlarged the area of understanding and improved the political climate in the Subcontinent. The two Ministers took note of the significant improvements in relations among the countries of the region. While expressing appreciation of the constructive role played by India in this regard, the Foreign Minister of Malaysia agreed with the Minister of External Affairs of India that the good neighbourly and mutually beneficial cooperation among the States of the sub-continent would release vast resources for rapid socioeconomic development of the region.

The two sides recognised that economic development in a climate of peace was the over-riding desire of all countries in South and South-East Asia. They agreed that regional and sub-regional co-operation in Asia would contribute to the consolidation of political and economic independence of the countries of the region and would promote peace, progress and stability in the region. In this respect, the two Ministers recognised the importance of ASEAN in promoting economic, cultural and social co-operation in South-East Asia.

Reviewing the situation in the Indian Ocean, the two Ministers urged all great powers and major maritime users to extend their full co-operation to the littoral and hinterland states in the implementation of the U.N. proposals declaring Indian Ocean as

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a Zone of Peace, free from tension and great-

power rivalry. They welcomed the talks between U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. on limitation of their naval presence in the Indian Ocean as a first step in this direction. The two Ministers also reiterated their continued support for the establishment of a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality in South-East Asia. In this connection, they welcomed the growing ties of co-operation and understanding among the States of the region.

The two Ministers reaffirmed their faith in the principles of UN Charter and reiterated their determination to contribute to the strengthening of the role and effectiveness of the U.N.

The two Ministers reaffirmed their adherence to and the continuing validity of the policy of non-alignment and stressed the role of the Non-alignment Movement as an important force in promoting peace and understanding amongst nations as well as in establishing a more equitable international economic relationship between developed and developing nations. In this connection, they expressed the hope that the forthcoming Bureau Meeting of the Bureau at Foreign Ministers' level in Kabul would take meaningful steps towards fulfilment of the goals of the Movement and expressed their readiness to co-operate wholeheartedly with other member-States for the success of the Kabul Meeting as well as the coming Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Non-aligned Countries in Belgrade in July, 1978.

The two Ministers agreed that a complete halt to the arms race and universal and complete disarmament under effective control would not only help to eliminate tensions but would also release vast resources that could be diverted for development and for securing the general well-being of mankind. in this connection they welcomed the forthcoming Special UN Session on Disarmament and expressed the hope that this Session would take positive steps in this direction and give priority to the cessation of all testing and production of nuclear weapons and to the progressive reduction and final elimination of existing stock-piles.

On the situation in West Asia, the two Ministers felt that the existing situation continued to pose a serious threat to world peace and re-affirmed the necessity of urgently moving towards a just settlement in accordance with U.N. Resolutions. They emphasised that, for any such settlement to be durable, the legitimate inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to establish a homeland of their own, must be respected. In this connection, they condemned the establishment by Israel of new settlements in occupied Arab territories in violation of the U.N. Charter and U.N. Resolutions.

The two Ministers reaffirmed their solidarity with the people of Southern Africa and their support to the struggle against racial discrimination and colonialism. They condemned the policy of apartheid practised by the South African regime and supported the struggle of the people of South Africa for political, economic and social justice. They reaffirmed their determination to see an early end to the illegal minority regime in Zimbabwe and denounced the so-called 'internal settlement' reached by this regime. They expressed their sympathy for the nationalists of Zimbabwe and called for early elections based on 'one-man-one-vote'. They also called for immediate accession of Namibia to complete independence.

The two Ministers stressed the positive contribution of detente to the relaxation of international tension but felt that the process of detente needed to be extended to all regions of the world and to all international problems. In this connection, they recognised that relations between States must be guided by the generally accepted principles of renunciation of use of force or threat of force in international relations, respect for each other's sovereignty, inviolability of frontiers, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, co-operation in economic and other fields on the basis of equality and mutual benefit and the right of each people to choose their own political and social systems.

Both Ministers expressed concern over the lack of progress towards a New International Economic Order, based on justice, and the concept of inter-dependence of states. They expressed their disappointment that in spite of concerted efforts by the international community to resolve the North-South issues, the related negotiations are still characterised by a general lack of positive attitude on the part of developed countries. They reiterated their support for the Integrated Programme of Commodities and urged the immediate establishment of the Common

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Fund to pomote the interest of the producers of primary commodities.

The two Ministers shared the view that the visit of the Malaysian Foreign Minister had made a notable contribution to the further strengthening of long-standing friendly ties between Malaysia and India. They were convinced that both sides should undertake to promote more and regular visits of this nature.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia extended an invitation for the External Affairs Minister of India to make an official visit to Malaysia. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia expressed his deep gratitude to the Government of India for the warm and cordial welcome and hospitality extended to him and members of his party during their stay

MALAYSIA INDIA USA PERU AFGHANISTAN YUGOSLAVIA ISRAEL SOUTH AFRICA ZIMBABWE NAMIBIA

Date: Mar 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

MAURITIUS

Indian Credit for Mauritius

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi an March 4, 1978 on Indian credit to Mauritius:

India will extend a credit of Rs. 10 crores to Mauritius to finance purchases in India of a variety of capital and intermediate goods and some agricultural commodities. An agreement to this effect was signed in New Delhi on March 4, 1978, by Finance Minister, Shri H. M. Patel on behalf of the Government of India and by Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, on behalf of the Government of Mauritius.

The portion of the credit utilised for purchases of capital equipment and intermediate goods will be repayable over a period of 15 years including a 3 year grace period. The portion utilised for purchase of agricultural commodities will be repayable within a period of 4 years including a grace period of one year.

The credit carries an interest of 5 per cent.

MAURITIUS USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Mar 01, 1978

Volume No

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MAURITIUS

Vajpayee's Statement in Parliament on Visit to Mauritius

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi when the Minister of External Affairs Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee made the following statement in Parliament on March 16, 1978:

I visited Mauritius from tenth to fourteenth March in response to the invitation extended to me by the Prime Minister of Mauritius Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam to participate in the celebrations of the tenth anniversary of the independence of Mauritius.

The House is aware of the close, friendly and historic relations that have existed between India and Mauritius. Ethnic ties between the majority of the inhabitants of Mauritius and of the people of India have established a relationship which has been sustained over all these years by intense cultural contacts and is acquiring contemporary relevance through increasing functional cooperation in economic scientific and technical fields between our two countries.

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Mauritius is our neighbour linked to us by the Indian ocean. It is an active member of the Organisation of African Unity, an like us a member of the Non-aligned fraternity of nations and a developing Country facing similar problems. It was therefore with a feeling of great happiness and a sense of duty that I accepted the invitation to visit Mauritius.

Before I reached Mauritius, I had a transit at Mahe, the capital city of Seychelles. The Foreign Minister of Seychelles, Mr. Guy Sinon received me at the airport and we were able to use the short time that was available to us for discussing possibilities of establishing and further strengthening of cooperation between India and Seychelles in the fields of agriculture, education, small-scale industries and health. Specific areas of cooperation had been identified during the recent visit of a delegation from Seychelles led by their Minister of Ports and Works Mr. Loizeau.

When I landed in Mauritius on the afternoon of tenth March, I was deeply touched by the presence at the airport of the Mauritius Prime Minister, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam and Lady Ramgoolam and

several of his colleagues in the cabinet and a large number of other persons representing different walks of life in Mauritius. During a brief statement that I made at the airport, I observed that Mauritius would remain independent so long as the sum and moon shine in the sky and also that unbreakable bonds of friendship between India and Mauritius will continue to grow from strength to strength as long as the waters of the Indian ocean continue to wash the shores of India and Mauritius.

During my stay in Mauritius I had the opportunity to visit practically every part of Mauritius and to meet a very large cross section of the people of Mauritius who as the house is aware have succeeded in forging a nation in spite of the diversity of the cultures, religions and languages of its people. As I mentioned at the banquet hosted by the Prime Minister, Mauritius is the living proof of the basic unity of family of man.

I visited the Mahatma Gandhi Institute which was set up in 1975 with our assistance with the objective of developing as a centre for Indian studies, cultures and traditions. The Institute is already equipped with a good library, a printing press and is running a higher secondary school where the medium of instruction is Hindi. In the very near future the Institute will have a full-fledged Centre for Indian Studies and other Oriental Studies.

During the course of my visit I had a tour of d'horizon with the Mauritian leaders on international matters and bilateral relations. There was complete identity of views on the subject of the establishment of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and related question of the convening of a conference of littoral and hinterland states for furthering the objectives of the United Nations resolutions on the subject. Our two countries will cooperate within the framework of the U.N. ad hoe committee on the Indian Ocean and endeavour to ensure that all Great Powers and major maritime users will participate in the proposed conference.

We exchanged views regarding the cur-

rent deliberations in the Security Council on the subject of Zimbabwe and agreed that steps should be taken for an effective time bound and constitutional transfer of power to genuine African majority rule.

We agreed that all efforts should be made to prevent the development of an internal solution of the Namibian problem as a result of South African manoeuverings and machinations. We agreed that non-aligned countries should concert their moves when the Namibian question comes up next month at a special session of the United Nations.

I pointed out to the Mauritian leaders that the continuation of the conflict in the Horn of Africa would, apart from vitiating generally improved climate of international cooperation and detente, also contribute to the escalation of military presence of super powers in the Indian Ocean. We agreed that a mutually acceptable political solution should be found and that all possible support should be given to the on going OAU mediating efforts on this question.

While exchanging views on the West Asian situation we were of the opinion that everything possible should be done so as to facilitate irreversible progress towards a just settlement of this protracted problem.

I explained to the Mauritian leaders our stand on the disarmament problem and the need for the non-aligned countries to work

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out a strategy for the special session of United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament and also to ensure that the necessary follow up action is not ignored. We agreed that the meeting of the Non-aligned Bureau scheduled to be held in Kabul in May should devote special attention to disarmament, problems.

While reviewing the progress towards the establishment of the new international economic order we agreed that the steps taken so far have been meagre and tardy and that all aspects of the inter dependence of the world economy should be taken into

account.

As the House is aware Mauritius has been an important beneficiary under our technical and economic cooperation programme. There are 49 Indian experts working in different fields. Mauritius is the largest beneficiary of our scheme for admission of self financing foreign students in technical and medical colleges in the country. A grant of rupees 13.1 million was made available to Mauritius in 1975 towards the capital assistance and this has been largely utilised by the Mahatma Gandhi Institute, the Industrial Trade Training Centre and the Mauritian Central Electricity Board. In addition to the earlier Government of India credit of Rs. 50 million extended to Mauritius a new credit of Rs. 100 million was recently agreed to Eightyfour percent of the credit is proposed to be utilised for purchase of capital equipment and the remaining for the purchase of agricultural commodities. Besides, a commercial credit of Rs. 50 million was extended last year for facilitating Mauritian purchases from India of commercal vehicles, machinery, medicines etc.

Eleven Indo-Mauritian joint ventures have been approved and seven of them are already functioning. In my discussions with the Mauritian leaders I informed them that we would be glad to provide further assistance in the fields of irrigation, ground water resources, power generation transmission and distribution, urban and rural water supply as well as the technical assistance in the agricultural and animal husbandry areas.

On the morning of the day of my departure from Mauritius, I together with Prime Minister Ramgoolam signed the agreement establishing a Joint Commission on Economic, Technical Education and Cultural Cooperation between our two countries. Establishment of the Joint Commission will contribute significantly to further strengthening of the existing close and friendly ties between India and Mauritius.

I am convinced that continued friendship between India and Mauritius is in the best interests of the peoples of India and Mauritius and will contribute to the establishment of peace and stability in the region to which we both belong.

MAURITIUS USA INDIA SEYCHELLES ZIMBABWE NAMIBIA SOUTH AFRICA CHINA PERU AFGHANISTAN LATVIA

Date: Mar 01, 1978

Volume No

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NEPAL

Joint Statement on Treaties and Agreement Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on the Joint press statement on the Indo-Nepal treaties and agreement on March 17, 1978:

The Government of India and His Majesty's Government of Nepal today signed, a Treaty of Trade, a Treaty of Transit and an Agreement of Cooperation to control Unauthorised Trade between the two countries. These documents were finalised in Kathmandu and were signed, here today, on behalf of the Government of India by Shri Mohan Dharia, Minister of Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation and on behalf of His Majesty's Government of Nepal by Shri

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Pitamber Dhoj Khati, Minister for Industry and Commerce.

Shri Pitamber Dhoj Khati arrived in New Delhi yesterday, the March 16, 1978. He is accompanied by Shri U. D. Bhatt, Foreign Secretary and Shri I. L. Shreshta, Commerce Secretary and other senior officials of His Majesty's Government of Nepal. During his brief stay in New Delhi, Shri Khati also paid courtesy calls on the President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, Minister of Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation, Minister of Industries of the Government of India.

The documents signed today replace the 1971 Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade and Transit which was valid until August 1976 but had been allowed to continue by a mutual exchange of letters between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government of Nepal until new agreements were arrived at. The broad guidelines for the successful conclusion of these Treaties and Agreement were laid during the meetings held between the Indian and the Nepalese leaders during the visits of the Foreign Minister and Prime Minister of India to Kathmandu in July and December 1977 respectively. After the discussions held at the Prime Minister's level in December 1977 it was agreed in the Joint Communique 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.

TREATY OF TRADE

In order to assist in the industrialisation process of Nepal the Government of India have agreed to enlarge the scope of preferences for Nepalese manufactured products in the Indian market. The two Governments have also agreed to incorporate necessary arrangements to maintain supplies of essential commodities headed by each other. In keeping with the efforts of the two countries to promote mutual trade preferential treatment would be accorded to the primary products on reciprocal basis.

TREATY OF TRANSIT

The Treaty of Transit and the Protocol lay down the procedures to be followed for Nepal's traffic-in-transit through India. The procedures will considerably facilitate the traffic-in-transit for Nepal's cargo. The new facilities include movement of bulk cargo both by rail and road.

UNAUTHORISED TRADE CONTROL

The Agreement of Cooperation to control Unauthorised Trade, becomes necessary due to the long and open border between the two countries. It reconfirms the right of both countries to pursue independent foreign trade policies and the need to ensure that the economic interests of either country are not adversely affected through unauthorised trade between the two countries.

His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the Government of Bangladesh have entered into a Treaty of Transit in 1976 providing for use of Bangladesh ports to facilitate Nepal's overseas trade. To enable Nepal to make use of this facility, it has been agreed by the Government of India and His Majesty's Government of Nepal, through an exchange of letters, that overland routes will be provided to Nepal for her trade with Bangladesh as also for Nepal's trade with third countries through Bangladesh. The procedural arrangements to facilitate this will be worked out by the Government of India with the Bangladesh Government.

REGULAR CONSULTATIONS

In order to facilitate effective and harmonious implementation of the Treaties and the Agreement, the two countries have agreed to consult each other regularly. Provisions have been made that problems which may arise in the course of the implementation of the documents may be discussed by separate official groups as and when necessary. It has also been agreed that an intergovernmental Committee would meet regularly every six months alternately in Khatmandu and in Delhi with a view to promoting closer economic cooperation between Nepal and India and for the harmonious working of the two Treaties and the Agreement. The Treaties and the Agreement will come into force on the 25th March, 1978.

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NEPAL INDIA USA RUSSIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC BANGLADESH

Date: Mar 01, 1978

Volume No

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PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Shri Jatti Hosts Lunch for Chinese Delegation

The Vice-President, Shri B. D. Jatti, held a lunch in honour of H.E. Mr. Wang Pin-nan, President, Chinese Peoples Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and Leader of the unofficial delegation visiting this country, in New Delhi on March 13, 1978. Welcoming, Shri Jatti said:

Your Excellency Mr. Wang Pin-nan, friends, I have great pleasure in welcoming Your Excellency and the members of your delegation here this afternoon. We are happy to note that Your Excellency has found it possible to accept the invitation extended by the All India Dr. Kotnis Memorial Committee to visit our country.

Excellency, India and China are two neighbouring Asian countries with a history that stretches back to nearly two thousand years. The splendour of the civilisations that flourished in our two countries is something that the people of India and China can be justly proud of. As heirs of two of the greatest civilisations of the world, India and China also have a long history and tradition of friendly contacts with each other.

In modern times too, the struggle of the Indian people for Independence under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and the struggle of the Chinese people for Liberation under the leadership of the late Chairman Mao Tse-tung were contemporaneous and inspired by the similar desire to create a new society in keeping with the genuine desire of our respective peoples. After India became Independent and China attained liberation, our two countries established friendly relations under the leadership of the late

Prime Minister Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru and the late Premier Chou En Lai who jointly initiated the Five Principles as the basis of our relations. We believe that these old Principles form a good basis for discussions between our two Governments and the improvement of mutually beneficial relations.

Our two social systems are different but we are both striving in our own different ways, towards the common goal of development and material prosperity. In this great endeavour, there is much that we can learn from each other.

This process of exchanging experience in various developmental fields is going smoothly since 1976 when we posted Ambassadors in each other's capitals. Over the last two years or so, some of our compatriots have travelled to your country and some of your compatriots have travelled to our country. We hope that this number will increase manifold in the days to come, and would contribute to the emergence of a better understanding and appreciation of each other's aspirations.

Your Excellency, your visit is but a brief one of two weeks in India, but I am confident that you will be able to see for yourself the friendly feelings that exist in our country for China and the Chinese people. It should be the joint endeavour of our two sides to create an atmosphere of understanding and cooperation in which relations between us can be further developed to mutual benefit.

Excellency, I wish you all success and a happy stay in India.

I would like to propose a toast to the health of His Excellency Chairman Hua Kuo feng; to the health and happy stay in India of His Excellency Wang Pin-nin, Leader of the delegation of the Chinese Peoples' Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries; to the health and happy stay in India of the members of the delegation; and to the health of all the friends present here this afternoon.

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Volume No

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PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Prime Minister's Statement on Chinese Mission's Visit

The Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, made the following statement in the Lok Sabha on March 16, 1978 in response to a Calling Attention Motion by Shri H. V. Kamath:

As the House is aware, various occasions have occurred since 1976 resulting in the improvement of contacts and relations between us and the People's Republic of China. The process commenced with the exchange of Ambassadors. Since then various steps based on the principles of reciprocity and mutual benefit have been taken, including the resumption of trade and shipping links, exchange of expert-level delegations and officials in diverse functional fields.

In September 1977, the All India Dr. Kotnis Memorial Committee sought Government's permission to invite a delegation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries to visit India in the winter months of 1977-78. The Indian Committee had visited China on the Chinese side's invitation on two occasions in 1974 and 1976. The present visit of the Chinese delegation led by Mr. Wang Pin-nan, who is the President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and a seasoned diplomat of long standing, is in response to this invitation by the Indian Body. Government had facilitated the visit and extended due courtesies.

Having regard to the standing of the leader of the Chinese delegation, H.E. Mr. Wang Pin-nan and reflecting our willingness to improve relations with China on the basis of the Five-Principles, I decided to receive him and the members of the delegation. The meeting took place on 11th March, 1978. Earlier, the Minister of External Affairs received Mr. Wang Pin-nan and the members of the Chinese delegation on 8th March, 1978.

During my meeting with Mr. Wang Pin-nan, I reiterated Government of India's consistent policy to develop friendly relations with all countries particularly our neighbours. In this context, we reviewed the development of relations in diverse fields between India and China. We agreed that exchanges between India and China in various fields should be expanded. I also took the opportunity to recapitulate the history of our relations since India achieved independence, the consistently friendly attitude of the Indian Government and people towards China and the strains that developed in India-China relations owing to past Chinese actions. In this context, the border question came up briefly for discussion and I stated, and Mr. Wang agreed, that all outstanding matters, including the border question, could be solved through negotiations and only through peaceful means on the basis of Panchsheel. I also made it clear that full normalisation of relations, of course, cannot be attained till the main outstanding issue the border question, is resolved to our mutual satisfaction by negotiations and peaceful means.

During the meeting between the Minister of External Affairs and Chinese delegation led by Mr. Wang Pin-nan, the latter extended an invitation to the Minister of External Affairs on behalf of the Chinese Foreign Minister, H.E. Mr. Huang Hua, to visit China at a time convenient to the Minister of External Affairs. The invitation was accepted in principle. The Chinese side has been informed that the visit could take place only after due preparations and at an appropriate time.

While agreeing to the desirability of a peaceful solution for the sake of friendly relations between the two countries, no further discussion on the border question has taken place.

Our policy is, of course, as has been stated frequently by the Minister of External Affairs and by myself, to seek an improvement of beneficial bilateral relations with China, as is appropriate between two big Asian neighbouring countries, on the basis of the Five Principles, which, it may be recalled were founded by India and China as early as in the fifties and the adherence to which was also emphasized by Mr. Wang.

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CHINA USA INDIA MALI

Date: Mar 01, 1978

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POLAND

Protocol on Shipping Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on March 8, 1978 when the Polish Minister called on Shri Ramachandran:

A Polish Economic Delegation led by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and Shipping of Poland Mr. T. Zylkowski on March 8, 1978 called on the Minister for Energy, Shri P. Ramachandran in New Delhi They discussed matters of mutual interest with regard to cooperation in the field of fishing trawlers.

Shri Ramachandran who is also the Cochairman of the Indo-Polish Joint Commission expressed his satisfaction in the understanding reached between the two countries.

An Indo-Polish protocol on shipping was signed here earlier today.

POLAND INDIA USA

Date: Mar 01, 1978

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Trade Committee Meeting

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on March 22, 1978 on the second meeting of the India-Republic of Korea Joint Trade Committee:

The second meeting of the India-Republic of Korea (South Korea) Joint Trade Committee was held at New Delhi on 20-21 March, 1978. The Korean delegation to the meeting was led by Mr. Ho Joong Choi, Assistant Minister for Economic Affairs while the Indian delegation was led by Mr. Mahesh Prasad, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce. The previous meeting had been held at Seoul in December, 1976.

The two sides reviewed the bilateral trade and expressed satisfaction over its growth. The Indian delegation drew the attention of the Koreans to the declining India's share in the total imports of iron ore into Korea and requested them to buy more iron ore from India. It was mentioned that development of a new iron ore complex at Donimalai in Karnataka had been just completed and it would be mutually beneficial if some long term arrangement for purchase of iron ore by Korea from this new source

could be worked out.

Regarding Indian engineering goods the Korean side suggested that more effective marketing drive should be taken up by the Indian firms in order to compete with the more established firms of developed countries.

It was felt that the extent of expansion of bilateral trade had not been proportionate to the expansion of global trade of both countries. It was agreed that further positive steps should be taken to encourage and facilitate trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. In this connection, the emphasis was given on the need for establishing regular direct shipping service between the two countries and conclude an agreement for avoidance of double taxation. Efforts should also be made to increase the share of shipping lines of the two countries

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in the bilateral trade. It may be mentioned that presently bulk of cargo, including iron ore from India is being carried in third country bottoms.

The question of cooperating in third country ventures including construction works also came up for discussion. Both countries have acquired considerable experience and expertise in this field by now and it was felt that the time was ripe for such cooperation. More frequent contacts between representatives of firms in both countries engaged in such activities would go a long way in facilitating this. Another area which was identified for collaboration was deep sea fishing. It may be recalled that India had declared 200 mile maritime economic zone in 1976. Some of the leading Korean firms have shown interest in joint ventures with Indian companies in exploiting marine resources of the India's economic zone. An early conclusion of the proposed fisheries Agreement between the two countries would give further impetus to these efforts.

KOREA INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Mar 01, 1978

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ROMANIA

Joint Commission Meeting

The following is the text of the speech by Shri H. N. Bahuguna at the Indo-Romanian Joint Commission at New Delhi on March 13, 1978:

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome Your Excellency and your colleagues to India on the occasion of the Fourth Meeting of the Indo-Romanian Joint Commission. We have behind us a great tradition of friendship and cooperation between our two nations. In the field of Petroleum it dates back to the fifties. The first well drilled in India by Oil & Natural Gas Commission at Jwalamukhi used a Romanian rig. The refineries at Gauhati and Haldia stand as monuments of our friendly cooperation. The visit to our country of your Prime Minister, His Excellency Mr. Manea Manescu in May, 1976, immediately after the second meeting of the Joint Commission further strengthened our fraternal ties.

I had an opportunity to visit your great country in October last and the solicitude and affection with which I was received and the warmth shown by the people of Romania wherever I went are still afresh in my mind. I am grateful to your Government and to you personally, Excellency, in particular for my very fruitful and pleasant stay in your great country. My visit was a tour in selfeducation. I was able to see for myself the feelings of warm friendship which the Government and people of Romania have for India. I was deeply impressed by what I saw of your industrial and agricultural activities in even the remotest parts of the country. It was a matter of great excitement to see

the keen interest which your workers, scientists and technicians are taking in the development of your nation. I was greatly impressed by the speed with which you had recovered from the scars of the earthquake an year ago which had caused enormous loss of life and property.

Excellency, you are no stranger to this country. You were with us in April, 1976 for the second meeting of the Joint Commission. Unfortunately due to the very short period of your stay then you were not able to see for yourself the progress we have made in diverse fields. Excellency, you will, however, forgive me for expressing my disappointment that on this occasion too Your Excellency's stay will be equally short.

Nevertheless, in the short time available we are arranging for a visit for Your Excellency to Hyderabad where you will be able to see a number of industrial units.

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We are meeting here today to discharge the responsibility entrusted to us by our respective Governments to give concrete content to the economic co-operation between our two countries. In preparation of Your Excellency's arrival, we have had the pleasure of welcoming an official delegation headed by Mr. S. Voinov, Director General in your Ministry of Foreign Trade and a person who knows India very well. Officials from both sides have been meeting since March 8 and I understand that they have covered considerable ground. The progress made by them is truly indicative of the earnestness and good-will that characterises the relations between our two countries.

I am very keen, Excellency, to identify as many new areas as we can actively pursue and to draw up a concrete programme for completion within a specified time frame. I am confident that during this meeting we will be able to do so.

Excellency, our bilateral trade has grown from a small turn-over of Rs. 38 million in 1959 to Rs. 818 million in 1976. Between 1973 and 1974 the trade had increased by 72%. We have since been able to main-

tain an average growth rate of 10 to 15 per cent. Although there has been some fall in 1977, the trade plan for 1978 envisages a turn-over of Rs. 1454 million which is a substantial increase over previous years. I am also happy that Romania has agreed to include some new items in its export list such as caprolactum, cement, newsprint and PVC resin. It is important that both sides take appropriate measures to ensure that the targets specified in the Trade Plan for 1978 are achieved.

Our cooperation in the field of petroleum industry is a long standing one. We have since developed our own expertise in many areas. I am sure, however, that we will still be able to identify new areas of cooperation. I think for this purpose we need more extensive liaison between the concerned Indian and Romanian organisations. We are grateful to your Government for sparing the services of its specialists to assist us in the interpretation of data relating to the Ganga Basin.

In the field of industrial cooperation, I am glad that after the visit of Your Excellency to the HEC plant in Ranchi during your last visit to India, Romania has shown interest in getting from India equipment for rolling mills. I am told that negotiations for the supply by MECON of two mini cold rolling mills and electrical equipment for rolling mill by the BHEL, have reached an advanced stage. I do hope that the relevant contracts would be signed soon. We have already exported some quantities of machine tools to Romania. Discussions on the purchase of trawler type tractors by Romania are now taking place.

An area which offers promising possibilities of cooperation is participation by both countries jointly in third country projects. We discussed this at length in October last. We must now endeavour to identify specific projects where cooperation is feasible.

India has made substantial progress in setting up of a sophisticated industrial base. We have also built a strong infrastructure of technical and managerial competence cover-

ing vital areas of the economy and industry.

There are a large number of consultancy firms in India with highly qualified and capable engineers specialising in various disciplines. India's capabilities in the industrial and consultancy fields could be utilised by Romania in third country projects.

I understand that your country has secured contracts for setting up refineries and petrochemical complexes on turn-key basis in a number of developing countries. Association of appropriate Indian organisations in these ventures would be mutually beneficial. India on its part is willing to examine the possibility of participation by Romanian organisations in some of the projects being set up by Indian organisations in third countries.

Agriculture is another vital area. The Janata Government is committed to a new deal for agriculture and we would welcome Romanian cooperation in this field too. There is also scope for larger off-take of the products of our cottage and small-scale industries.

Once again I welcome Your Excellency and your Delegation and hope that your stay will be pleasant and useful. I feel confident that the results being achieved during the present meeting of the Joint Commission will give greater impetus to our efforts to make our ties closer and to extend and diversify our trade and economic relations.

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OMAN ROMANIA INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Mar 01, 1978

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ROMANIA

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on March 17, 1978 on the India-Romania Joint Commission session:

The Indo-Romanian Joint Commission for Economic, Technical and Scientific Cooperation concluded its Fourth Session on March 17, 1978 with the signing of a Protocol. The deliberations of the Session were held in an atmosphere of cordiality and friendship.

The Indian Delegation was led by Shri H. N. Bahuguna, Minister of Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilizers and the Romanian Delegation by Mr. Neculai Agachi, Minister of Metallurgy, Socialist Republic of Romania. Apart from participating in the Joint Commission session Mr. Agachi had detailed discussions with the Ministers of Industry, Energy, Agriculture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Steel and Mines and Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation. The Romanian Minister also called on the Prime Minister on March 17, 1978.

Major areas of cooperation which came up for detailed examination were Trade and Shipping; Industrial Cooperation and Science and Technology; Petroleum, Chemicals, Petro-chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Oilfield equipment; and Agriculture.

In the field of trade exchanges it was noted that the implementation of the Trade Plan for 1978, which envisages an increase of about 10 percent over 1977, was proceeding satisfactorily. It was a-reed that the respective foreign trade organisations would take necessary steps to expedite further contracting to ensure implementation of the Trade Plan.

With regard to industrial cooperation the joint venture being set up in Madras for the production of finished leather is expected to start production very shortly. The tractor plant set up in Hyderabad with Romanian collaboration for the manufacture of 45 H.P. tractors is functioning satisfactorily. In the field of petroleum, the lube oil complex at the Haldia Refinery has been completed with Romanian collaboration. Specialists from Romania are likely to come to India shortly to assist in the interpretation of the geoscientific data pertaining to the Ganga basin.

During the meetings new possibilities of cooperation were identified in the fields of machine building industry, steel and metallurgy, petroleum, chemicals and petro-chemicals industry for which further discussions are to be held between the concerned organisations of the two countries.

With regard to cooperation in the setting up of project in third countries, it was noted that there were possibilities in various fields, such as, oil refineries, chemical and petro-chemical plants, cement plants, power stations, textiles, tanneries and consultancy services. Specific projects for cooperation will be identified as soon as possible.

In regard to cooperation in agriculture, Romania has offered to provide technology for the production of sunflower. Experts from India are likely to visit Romania in the later half of 1978 to study these techniques.

OMAN ROMANIA INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date: Mar 01, 1978

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UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Shri A. B. Vajpayee's Statement at the Plenary Session of Indo-Soviet Joint Commission

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on March 2, 1978

of the speech of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs, at the Plenary Session of the fourth meeting of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission held in New Delhi:

Your Excellency Deputy Prime Minister Arkhipov and distinguished members of the

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Soviet Delegation, I have great pleasure in welcoming Your Excellency and your colleagues who are here to take part in the Fourth Session of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission. I am specially grateful to Your Excellency for responding at short notice to our invitation to participate in a ceremony to mark the commissioning of the third blast furnace in Bokaro. Bokaro is a vibrant, symbol of Indo-Soviet economic cooperation and the completion of its first stage is a significant landmark in the development of India's steel industry.

On this occasion, my mind goes back to the small beginnings of Indo-Soviet economic cooperation in the early '50s. What started as a rivulet has grown into a mighty river like the Ganga or the Volga. Today we can look back with satisfaction and, if I may say so, with pride, on the wide range of Indo-Soviet cooperation and on what has been accomplished, particularly in the development of India's basic and machine-building industries.

The warm friendship and understanding between our two countries have provided a solid foundation for these impressive achievements. When one surveys the course of Indo-Soviet relations, one is struck by their steady and continuous growth, with no zigzags and no discontinuities. This is a source of gratification to us as, I am confident, it is to the Soviet Union.

I was able to see for myself during our Prime Minister's visit to the USSR in October 1977 the feelings of warm friendship which the Soviet Government and people have for India. Your Excellency must have noticed during your short stay in India that these sentiments are fully reciprocated by us and that we too are working for a progressive enrichment of our friendship with the Soviet Union.

The Fourth Session of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation is an important event. The Commission has played a major role in promoting our cooperation in these fields in a systematic and orderly way. The decision taken by the two Governments to raise the level of Co-Chairman is symbolic of their desire to consolidate and develop our relations still further. This meeting of the Commission should, therefore, provide a new direction to organisations and agencies in both countries so that they can go forward boldly with conception and execution of projects which would further expand the economic ties that already exist between India and the Soviet Union.

In preparation for Your Excellency's arrival, we had the pleasure of receiving an official delegation headed by Mr. Litvinenko, Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations. I am happy to note our experts have already got together and covered very considerable ground in seven specialised working groups. The progress made by them is indicative of the understanding and goodwill that characterises the dialogue between our countries.

While the experts will naturally set out the details of what has to be done in agreed time schedules, it is necessary to think about some major policy issues. The whole question of broadening the scope of our cooperation has to be viewed against the background of the historic Joint Declaration signed by President Brezhnev and Prime Minister Morarji Desai in Moscow in October 1977. It is our firm policy to further strengthen and develop the trade and economic relations between India and the USSR. We have, however, to search for new areas if the momentum of growth has to be maintained. Soon after our Prime Minister's visit to Moscow, a number of Soviet expert groups have come to India and had fruitful discussions with their counterparts in fields such as oil and gas, coal, ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy, irrigation, etc. Formulation of

concrete projects is naturally a time-consuming process, but there is no doubt that these exchanges have opened up new perspectives for further fruitful cooperation.

There are some problems to which, I think, we should address ourselves. I would like to start with trade relations because this is one of the most important areas in our overall economic relationship. The turnover between our two countries is likely to exceed Rs. 10,000 million in 1978. As a proportion of India's total foreign trade, this would constitute almost 10%. We have now to think of ways and means of putting our bilateral trade on the path of steady, long-term growth. It is recognised by both sides that the present pattern of commodity exchanges sets sharp limits to expansion in future. In

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this context, it is important to ensure that trade relations between India and the Soviet Union evolve with the changes that have occurred in our industrial profile. This will call for further diversification of our trade and rowing offtake of industrial goods and equipment which we are now in a position to supply. A good beginning has been made whereby we are exporting steel products to the Soviet Union in exchange for oil. But this has to be put on a firmer and more systematic footing. Some thinking and planning will have to be done to ensure steady growth in the years to come. Certain ideas are under discussion and these include increasing utilisation of India's machinebuilding capacity and of our consultancy and engineering services for projects in third countries. There may be other ideas. What I would like to emphasize at this stage is that the composition of trade will have to evolve to provide a sound basis for dynamic development.

I am glad to note that at this meeting of the Commission we would be discussing and reaching decisions on two important projects. These are an alumina project based on the rich bauxite deposits on our east coast and the blast furnace complex. Yet another important area is the modernisation of steel-making technology at Bhilai, Bokaro and other plants. Together, these projects would constitute an undertaking on an impressive scale. The alumina project is being conceived on the basis of the principle of production compensation. While the Soviet Union has already had adequate experience of such projects in its own national economy, this is the first time that the principle would be extended to projects built in India with Soviet cooperation. This is obviously of great significance and there is no reason why the principle should not be progressively enlarged in its application. We would like work on these projects to commence expeditiously. Now that we have a good deal of experience of Working together, it should be possible to set fairly tight time schedules and to complete these projects in such a way that returns start flowing in early. This, we believe, will be good for India and good for the Soviet Union.

We also attach great importance to the work of modernising and updating technology, equipment and process in our steel plants. This would be an economical way of augmenting our steel-making capacity and here again the need is to commence work without loss of time.

Industrial cooperation in third countries is yet another promising area. India has now built up a fairly sophisticated industrial base and we are in a position to cooperate with the Soviet Union in third countries on a mutually beneficial basis. I hope that the Commission would not only support this idea, in principle, but would also encourage exploration of concrete possibilities.

Agriculture is another vital area. The Janata Government are committed to a new deal for agriculture and we would welcome Soviet cooperation in accelerating the pace of agricultural advance. There is also considerable scope for larger offtake of the products of our cottage and small scale industries. This would create employment opportunities to which we attach great importance. The USSR is doing this in some fields such as knitwear, foodwear, etc. but the vast Soviet market can doubtless absorb a great deal more.

In conclusion, may I say once again how happy we are to welcome Your Excellency and your colleagues in our midst. I do hope that you would have a little time to see something of our vast and varied country, as also the life and culture of our people who are working confidently to shape a new future for themselves.

INDIA USA RUSSIA LATVIA

Date: Mar 01, 1978

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UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Shri Vajpayee's Speech at Dinner in Honour of H.E. Mr. Arkhipov

The Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, held a dinner in honour of H.E. Mr. I. V. Arkhipov, Deputy Chairman of USSR Council of Ministers and Co-Chairman of the Indo-USSR Joint Commission in New Delhi on March 2, 1978. Proposing the toast, Shri Vajpayee said:

Your Excellency Mr. I. V. Arkhipov, Members of the Soviet Delegation, friends,

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it gives me great pleasure to extend a warm and cordial welcome to Your Excellency and to members of your delegation who have come to India to participate in the 4th meetting of the Indo-Soviet Inter-Governmental Commission on Economic, Technical and Scientific Cooperation.

Excellency, you have been associated with Soviet economic cooperation with India for the last several years. Your appointment as Co-Chairman of the Commission augurs well since it imparts the Commission

added authority. Your visit will be an important landmark in the development of Indo-Soviet relations. I do hope that, you and your colleagues will have a pleasant stay in our country.

Less than a year ago, the people of India entrusted to the Janata Party the task of forming the Government. We were conscious then, as indeed we are now, of the sacred trust placed in us by the people of India. Our efforts all along have been directed in the spirit for the benefit of the masses, for the happiness of the masses. Our Government is committed to ameliorate the conditions of the people of India and bring to them the benefits of modern science and technology. We stand committed to giving them social and economic justice. This implies a balanced and dynamic growth of a self-reliant economy and in this we seek the cooperation of our friends from abroad.

Those who doubted the strength of Indo-Soviet relations have been proved wrong. Indeed we can say today with satisfaction that our friendship has grown from strength to strength in the last one year because it is based not on transient considerations, but on the recognised principles of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit. Both our nations have recognised that we have a firm interest in world peace. It is therefore but natural that we should strive to work for international stability and cooperation. High level exchanges between our two countries have helped in achieving better understanding and exploring new avenues of beneficial cooperation. We recall with satisfaction the visit of our Prime Minister Shri Morarji Desai to the Soviet Union in October, 1977 which gave us an opportunity to feel for ourselves the warmth and affection that the Soviet people have towards India and the genuine interest that the Soviet Government and its leader His Excellency Mr. L. I. Brezhnev had for the wellbeing and the development of the people of India. In our discussions with the USSR leaders we rediscovered a close similarity of views on the important international issues. It was in this context that we resolved through our Joint

Declaration signed in Moscow to serve the cause of international harmony and understanding.

Indo-Soviet relations have charted a new course in contemporary history of bilateral relationships. Over the last three decades, a large number of agreements have been signed covering a wide range of subjects. These have enabled our cooperation to develop over a number of years and we see today nearly 70 projects all over India started with Soviet collaboration. The agreement in 1972 establishing the Inter-Governmental Cornmission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation provided a valuable framework to coordinate activity in this field.

Indo-Soviet commercial and economic relations have become important element in this overall bilateral relationship. A wide range of agreements have been concluded covering varied aspects of our economic development. The Government and the people of India acknowledge with thanks the cooperation extended by the Soviet Union to help India achieve progress towards economic self-reliance and emerge among the more important industrial nations of the world. The deliberations of the Joint Commission will discover further ways and means of enlarging this cooperation. The Government of India would like to reiterate that the economic strength India shall gain from such cooperation will only be used to contribute to a solution of pressing international social and economic problems.

I have no doubt whatsoever that in coming years our endeavours in cooperation will bear yet new fruit. Several members of the visiting Delegation accompanied you, Mr. Deputy Prime Minister, to participate in the inauguration of the Third Blast Furnace at Bokaro Steel Plant. That steel city like several other cities and projects testifies to Indo-Soviet friendship and economic cooperation. Our partnership has set a shining example of how two sovereign nations not-withstanding their differing social systems can cooperate to mutual benefit.

Ladies and gentlemen, may I now request you all to join me in proposing a toast to the health of His Excellency Mr. L. I. Brezhnev, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR; to the health of His Excellency Mr. Alexi Kosygin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of USSR; to the health of His Excellency Mr. I. V. Arkhipov; to the progress and prosperity of the friendly people of the USSR; and to the everlasting friendship between the USSR and India.

USA INDIA RUSSIA

Date: Mar 01, 1978

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UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Text of Shri Vajpayee's Speech at the Closing Plenary Session of Indo-Soviet Joint Commission

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on March 6, 1978 of the, speech at the Closing Plenary Session of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission in New Delhi on March 6, 1978 by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee:

Excellency Mr. Arkhipov and Friends, On this happy occasion, it is, once again, my privilege to welcome you and your colleagues to the closing plenary session of the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission. You have had a busy schedule during your stay here. In addition to participating in the work of the Commission, you have met the President, the Prime Minister and have held discussions with Shri Biju Patnaik, Minister of Steel, Shri Bahuguna, Minister of Petroleum and Shri George Fernandes, Minister of Industry on major issues in our economic and commercial relations. I am glad that you have also been able to find time to visit Bokaro,

Hyderabad and Karnataka and to have a look at the famous bird sanctuary in Bharatpur. I hope that your visit, though brief, has enabled you to get a glimpse of the multifaceted economic and developmental activities taking shape in this country and your impressions would confirm the strength of the friendly relations that bind our two countries.

The time has come to conclude our labours for the present. I am confident that the inter-governmental protocol which you and I have had the privilege of signing oil behalf of our respective countries, will provide a sound basis for the development of our cooperative relations in the economic, scientific and technical fields.

May I recapitulate the main trends that have emerged as a result of our discussions? In the first place, and this is important, understanding has been reached between the two sides on all problems connected with the implementation of on going projects such as the expansion of Bokaro and Bhilai each up to 4 million tonnes stage, the construction of Mathura Refinery, operations of the heavy machine building plant at Ranchi and the Heavy Electricals Plant at Hardwar. All connected questions brought up before the Commission have been satisfactorily resolved.

Secondly, we have taken a major step forward in establishing a new pattern of cooperation in industry. I am referring to the agreement in regard to the construction of the Alumina Plant in India on compensation basis. We are glad that contracts have been signed to start feasibility studies. For the first time, an industrial project would be set up in India which would have a close linkage with Soviet Plans for meeting the USSR's requirements of industrial goods. It is an important beginning. We may take legitimate pride in the fact that we have, within a short period of time, translated into practice, the directions contained in the Indo-Soviet Joint Declaration of October 26, 1977, signed by our Prime Minister Shri Morarji Desai and Excellency President Brezhnev.

Yet another important milestone in our long and fruitful relationship is the agreement on setting up of a shore based blast furnace complex. We welcome Soviet assistance for this project and I hope that arrangements would soon be worked out to make a start.

Important work has also been done in regard to the preparation of a blue print for the modernisation of technology, equipment and production processes at Bhilai and

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Bokaro. Apart from the obvious gain that would accrue to our economy, the modernisation programme of Bhilai and Bokaro, involving transfer of the latest technology, marks a qualitative improvement over the existing pattern of cooperation. I hope that this process would be extended not only to the other steel plants in India but to the various fields in which the two sides are cooperating.

In this context, I am happy to note that agreement has been reached between the two sides to promote cooperation in the field of research and design in key industrial sectors. in ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy and in heavy machine building, the research and design organisations of the two sides are expected to prepare specific proposals for cooperation.

The Joint Commission has agreed in broad terms on the prospects of production cooperation. It is clear that the principles of inter-dependence and complementarity have to find their due place in our industrial cooperation.

Favourable trends emerged during our discussions on the subjects of cooperation in third countries. At present, such cooperation is limited primarily to supply of goods and equipment. I am confident that not only will the volume of supplies from India be progressively enlarged but that there will be association of Indian design, consultancy and construction organisations in projects in third countries. This will be to our mutual advantage.

A significant part of the work of this particular Session of the Commission was related to the drawing up of a long-term programme of cooperation extending over a period of 10-15 years and embracing within its scope both economic and commercial exchanges. We have tried to give practical shape to the directions of our leaders which are contained in the Joint Declaration of October, 1977. We have taken a decision to set up a high level working group to examine the detailed proposals for inclusion in this programme. I hope that this working group would complete its work by the end of this year so that the two Governments are in a position to take decisions on its recommendations as soon as possible.

I think that both sides now recognise that qualitative changes are needed in our pattern of trade to put it on the path of dynamic growth in future. For this reason, careful thought needs to be given to the long term trade agreement for the period 1981-85. We look upon the long term programme of economic and trade cooperation as an instrument for further enriching our friendship.

Excellency, in our mutual dealings we have built up over the years a sound institutional base to promote and coordinate activities in diverse fields. The Joint Commission, as the apex body, has to strengthen this base and to set new tasks, new goals and new aspirations for joint accomplishment. In its brief period of existence, the Commission has responded to the challenges and problems of the international economic situation and has provided a framework within which practical action is harmonised with the basic principles of our bilateral relationship. I feel that as a result of work done during the fourth session, the perspectives of development have become clearer and we may look forward which confidence to a purposeful and steady growth of bilateral cooperation in a changing environment.

Excellency, I said earlier that we may conclude our labours for the present. But, truly speaking, the end of the fourth session

is a momentous beginning. We have set our sights high. We have a tight time schedule to work to. We have to respond with a sense of urgency to the demands for development. Between now and when we meet next in Moscow, we have to produce concrete results in terms of decisions and understanding incorporated in the protocol. To this end, therefore, we must bend our endeavour.

Excellency, may I thank you personally and your colleagues for the cooperation that we have received for successful conclusion of the work of the Fourth Session of this Commission.

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INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC RUSSIA

Date: Mar 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Indo-Soviet Protocol

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on March 6, 1978 on the signing of the Indo-Soviet protocol:

The Inter-Governmental Indo-Soviet Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation which concluded its fourth session on March 6, 1978, has imparted a new momentum to the Indo-Soviet relations. The session whose deliberations were marked by cordiality and understanding between the two sides, marks several new beginnings. The whole exercise was done in a perspective of a long-term programme stretching over the next 10-15 years. The details of such a programme are to be

worked out in 1978.

The discussions between the two delegations which were led by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, India's Minister of External Affairs and Mr. L V. Arkhipov, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, were held in the broad framework of cooperation outined in the Joint Indo-Soviet Declaration signed upon the completion of the visit to the USSR of the Prime Minister Shri Morarii Desai in October 1977. In addition to the detailed discussions in the 7 Working Groups of the Commission, Mr. Arkhipov had a wide ranging exchange of views with the Ministers of Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilisers, Industry, and Steel and Mines. He also called on the President and the Prime Minister.

Major areas of cooperation which came up for detailed examination were steel; heavy machine building; oil exploration, production and refining; coal, non-ferrous metallurgy; communication and transport; irrigation; cooperation in third countries; production on co-operation; trade; and science and technology. Based on the recommendations of the Working Groups, an Inter-Governmental Protocol was signed on March 6, 1978, which sets out various steps to be taken in an agreed time-frame.

Complete agreement was reached between the two sides on action to be taken for timely implementation of the on-going projects, such as expansion of Bokaro and Bhilai Steel Plants upto 4 MT stage each, completion of Mathura Refinery and operation of the Heavy Machine Building Plant at Ranchi and the Heavy Electricals Plant at Hardwar. It was agreed that energetic steps would be taken for modernisation of technology and production processes at Bokaro and Bhilai. It is expected that there would be a substantial addition to the capacity of these two steel plants as a result of such modernisation. MECON and the concerned Soviet organisations have been entrusted with the task of preparing detailed studies in this regard. It is expected that so far as Bhilai is concerned, blueprint of action may be ready by the beginning of next year. Updating of technology and equipment at the steel plants and at machine building plants is a new dimension of cooperation between the two sides. Not only would it agument capacity in vital sectors, it would also strengthen design and research capabilities of Indian organisations in these fields.

Among the new projects discussed, progress was made in regard to the setting up of an alumina plant of approximately 600,000 tonnes per annum on the East Coast on compensation basis and of a Blast Furnace Complex. Two contracts were signed on March 6, 1978, between the Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd. and the Soviet organisation Tsvetmetpromexport, relating to evaluation of bauxite deposits and preparation of a detailed feasibility report for the project. Thus, within a short time, the two sides have given a practical shape to the provision in regard to the alumina plant contained in the Joint Indo-Soviet Declaration of October 77.

In the area of non-ferrous metallurgy, it has been agreed that the Soviet side would assist in the processing of polymetallic ores in India with technology for the preparation of clean, single concentrates from such ores to the extent feasible and for the pyrometallurgical treatment of such ores where necessary. It has also been agreed that the Soviet side would make an offer for preparing a feasibility study for the production of nickel based on the limonitic ores discovered in Sukinda. Cooperation is also envisaged in other areas of non-ferrous industries, like the development of the Panna diamond mines. Both sides have agreed to the setting up of a Working Group on non-ferrous metallurgy, to discuss further areas of co-

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operation. It was also agreed that the Soviet side would assist in the training of specialists and in the supply of equipment for geological investigations for non-ferrous metals.

Agreement was reached between the two sides on exploring possibility of enlarging cooperation between India and Soviet enterprises in complementary production of selected items of industrial output for mutual supplies. Experts of the two sides will soon meet to work out details.

Cooperation in third countries figures prominently in discussions and it was agreed that the two sides would ensure early action to involve participation of Indian organisations In supply of equipment and in designing, construction and erection work relating to projects being built with Soviet assistance in third countries.

During the session of the Commission, agreements were concluded for implementation of the Inter-Governmental Protocol of April 77 for establishment of a tropo-scatter communication system. The Soviet Union would supply radio equipment and technology for the project, whereas India would supply antennas for the Soviet station. The link would be established by October 1980.

A working group has been set up to prepare a long-term economic programme which was envisaged in the Joint Declaration. As part of this exercise, a separate working group would go into the preparation of the long-term trade plan for the period 1981-85. Both sides recognised that the long-term programme would be drawn up keeping in view the far reaching changes that are taking place in the economies of the two countries.

INDIA USA LATVIA ITALY UNITED KINGDOM

Date: Mar 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

UNITED KINGDOM

Agreed Minutes of the Indo-British Economic Committee Meeting Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on March 16, 1978 on the signing of the agreed minutes at the Indo-British Economic Committee Meeting:

The Agreed Minutes of the meeting of the Indo-British Economic Committee were signed in New Delhi on March 16, 1978, by Shri Mohan Dharia, Minister for Commerce, Civil Supplies and Co-operation on behalf of India and The Rt. Hon. Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade on behalf of U.K.

The Committee had intensive discussions on March 13 and 14, 1978, on various aspects of bilateral economic relations including commercial and industrial co-operation. The Committee was composed of officials and representatives of trade and industry from the public and private sector agencies.

The Committee concentrated its attention on the specific initiatives and action programmes to be taken for imparting momentum to the growth of commercial and economic relations consistent with the developing potentials of the two economies. In this task, the Committee was assisted by the two Sub-Committees set up and which had detailed discussions on March 10 and 14, 1978 and made recommendations to the Ministerial Committee.

It was decided that continuous efforts would be made to identify products and industrial areas for imports and collaboration in both areas. In this process, the Department of Trade in the UK would do their best to help India to establish contacts with the concerned bodies in the UK.

EXPERT STUDIES

The Committee appreciated the need of expert level studies to find out precise areas and the mechanisms to promote commercial and industrial co-operation in such areas.

This suggestion will be pursued for implementation.

The Committee has been able to give a new dimension and impetus to the promotion of Indo-British co-operation through collaboration for projects in third countries. In order to follow up this idea, focal points have been nominated on both sides to exchange information and pursue possibilities of promoting co-operation for projects in third countries, On the Indian side, the Department of Industry will be the focal point for the engineering and civil construction sectors and the India Investment Centre will be the focal point for all the other sectors. On the British side, the Department of Trade will be the focal point for all the sectors.

In the field of Shipping, it was brought to the attention of the Committee that there was need of modern vessels including containarised vessels on this route in view of the growth of demand for speedier, safer and efficient handling of the cargo. Concern was expressed over the frequent increases in the freight rates which affected the competitiveness of trade both ways.

There was also exchange of views on other issues concerning India-EEC relationship, Common Fund and Multilateral Trade Negotiations. While appreciating and welcoming the Lome initiative of development Co-Operation between the EEC and the developing countries of the African-Carribean-Pacific, the Indian delegation expressed the hope that such type of initiative would be globalised to include other developing countries. It was also indicated that the experience of India in the development process would be relevant and could be made available for the benefit of the ACP States. To this end, it would be useful if the Lome Convention could make suitable provisions to make it possible for firms and organisations of developing countries like India to participate in the various projects to be undertaken in the ACP States. The UK side agreed to examine the proposal sympathetically.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

The Committee accepted that in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations in Geneva the concerns of the developing countries should be fully taken into account. The main objective of these negotiations would be to secure additional benefits to the developing countries. In order that the trade negotiations in Geneva retained their multilateral character and to ensure full participation of developing countries, the Indian side stressed that the developed countries demonstrate that the concerns of developing countries are fully taken into account and the MTNs result in a positive outcome for the developing world.

The UK side raised certain matters affecting the UK citizens and Sterling Companies, particularly relating to remittance facilities and salaries of Seamen. The Indian side indicated that on details being received these would be considered.

The Committee decided that target time limits be set and institutional procedures established to monitor the process of implementation of the various actions. The Ministry of Commerce with the assistance of the Indian High Commission in London and the Department of Trade of the Government of the UK with the assistance of the British High Commission in Delhi would be in touch with each other and be responsible for following up the decisions arrived at the meeting.

INDIA UNITED KINGDOM USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC TOTO SWITZERLAND

Date: Mar 01, 1978

	Volume No	
1995		
VIETNAM		
Joint Communique		

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on March 2, 1978 on the India-Vietnam Joint Communique:

At the invitation of the Prime Minister of India, Shri Morarji Desai, the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, His Excellency Mr. Pham Van Dong, paid a State visit to India from February 24, to March 2, 1978.

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The Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the members of the delegation were accorded a warm and cordial welcome by the Government and people of India reflecting the close and friendly ties between the two countries and the affection and admiration which the people of India and Vietnam have for each other.

During his stay in Delhi, the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and his delegation paid their homage to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi and laid a wreath at Raj Ghat. The Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was given a civic reception by the people of Delhi at the historic Red Fort. The Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam addressed the Indian Parliamentary Group and visited some historic sites and places of cultural and scientific interest near Delhi. Subsequently, the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and his delegation visited Agra, Bombay and Madras and acquainted themselves with the cultural heritage of the people of India and their progress in the field of agriculture, industry and scientific research.

The Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam called on the President, Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy, and the Vice-President, Shri B. D. Jatti, and held official talks with the Prime Minister of India. He also received the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

In the official talks, the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was assisted by:

H.E. Mr. Dang Viet Chau, Minister of Foreign Trade; H.E. Mr. Nguyen Co Thach, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs; H.E. Mr. Vu Quoc Uy, Acting President of the Commission for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries; H.E. Mr. Nguyan Van Sinh, Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in India; H.E. Mr. Hoang Quoc Dung, Director of the Sectt. of the Prime Minister; H.E. Mr. Ngo Dien, Asstt. to Minister of Foreign Affairs; H.E. Mr. Ngo Thanh Giant, Head of the Deptt. in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; H.E. Mr. Hoang Trong Nhu, Head of Protocol Deptt. Ministry of Foreign Affairs; H.E. Mr. Bui Tan Linh, Head of the Deptt. for Asia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and H.E. Mr. Ngo Thiet Thach, Dy. Head of the Deptt. for Economic Relations with Foreign countries, Premier's office.

and, the Prime Minister of India was assisted by:

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Foreign Minister; Shri Surjit Singh Barnala, Minister of Agriculture & Irrigation; Shri Madhu Dandavate, Minister of Railways; Shri Mohan Dharia, Minister of Commerce; Shri H. M. Patel, Minister of Finance; Shri S. Kundu, Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs; Shri V. Shankar, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister; Shri J. S. Mehta, Foreign Secretary; Shri M. A. Vellodi, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs; Shri V. K. Ahuja, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs; Shri Manmohan Singh, Secretary, Deptt. of Economic Affairs; Shir R. D. Thapar, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce; Shri (Dr.) M. S. Swaminathan, Secretary. Deptt of Agricultural Research and Education; Shri M. R. Sivaramakrishnan, Ambassador of India, Hanoi; Shri S. Shahabuddin, Joint Secretary (S), Ministry of External Affairs: Shri R. K. Jerath, Joint Secretary (ED-I), Ministry of External Affairs; and Shri P. L. Sinai, Chief of Protocol, Ministry of External Affairs.

These talks took place in an atmosphere of warm cordiality and mutual understanding and in the spirit of close and friendly relations existing between the two countries. In the course of the discussions, they reviewed the international situation, particularly the recent developments in South-East Asia, and South Asia, and the growing relations between Vietnam and India.

The Prime Minister of India referred to the recent developments in India and apprised that Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam of the political, economic and social policy and programme of his Government in accordance with the mandate received from the people of India in the last general election. The Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam conveyed the felicitations of the Government and the people of Vietnam to the Government and the people of India for the success achieved by the Indian people and their best wishes for their continued progress and prosperity.

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The Prime Minister of India hailed the success of the Vietnamese people in achieving the liberation of South Vietnam and the reunification of Vietnam. The Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam sincerely thanked the Government and the people of India for their support during their national struggle and apprised the Prime Minister of India of the decisions and the programme for national reconstruction adopted by the Fourth Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam. The Prime Minister of India conveyed the warm felicitations of the Government and people of India to the Government and the people of Vietnam for their achievements and wished them every success in their gigantic task of healing the wounds of war and national reconstruction.

The Prime Minister of India referred to the various steps taken by his Government for strengthening relations with the neighbouring countries. The Prime Ministers welcomed the new spirit of cooperation in South Asia and the progress achieved in resolving a number of outstanding differences among the countries of the region. They were of the view that all questions concerning relations among neighbouring countries in South Asia, as well as in South-East Asia, should be settled through negotiations, free from foreign interference, in a spirit of equality and mutual respect. They expressed the hope that durable ties of friendly cooperation would be established among them to their common benefit.

The Prime Ministers agreed that the common task of the people of South-East Asia is to accelerate their economic development for a better life and to promote the cause of peace, independence, neutrality and cooperation in the region. They expressed satisfaction at the progress achieved in the normalisations of relations among the states of South-East Asia on the basis of the principles of peaceful co-existence. The Prime Minister of the Socialist Repubile of Vietnam informed the Prime Minister of India of the four-point policy of his government in its relations with other South-East Asian countries, in conformity with the current situation in the region, and of the positive contribution that policy had made to the normalisation of relations among the countries of the region. The Prime Ministers expressed the hope that normalisation would lead to mutually beneficial cooperation on an ever-widening front.

In this connection, the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam informed the Prime Minister of India that the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has pursued a consistent policy of solidarity and friendship with Democratic Kampuchea and that Vietnam is ready to settle the questions relating to the relations between Vietnam and Kampuchea on the basis of its Statement of February 5, 1978. The two Prime Ministers expressed the confidence that Vietnam and Kampuchea would resolve the problem peacefully, through negotiations.

The Prime Ministers reiterated their support to the unanimous aspirations of the littoral and hinterland states for the establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian ocean as reflected in the resolutions of the Non-Aligned Group and of the United

Nations on the subject. They expressed the hope that all Great Powers and major maritime users of the Indian Ocean would extend their full and unreserved cooperation to the littoral and hinterland states in realising this goal, in particular in holding the proposed International Conference on the Indian Ocean.

The Prime Ministers reviewed the situation in Southern Africa and reiterated their support for and solidarity with the liberation movements of the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia who are struggling for self-determination and independence. They also expressed their deep concern over the explosive situation in South Africa arising out of the policy of apartheid and the persistent denial of basic human rights to the majority of the people. They condemned the repressive and anti-democratic measures unleashed by the South African regime against the people and called for effective implementation of sanctions, including complete embargo on arms, trade and investment.

Considering the present situation in West Asia, the Prime Ministers reiterated their whole-hearted support to the struggle of the Palestinian people for the restoration of their legitimate national rights, including the right to establish a state of their own, and felt that the international community must pay urgent attention to finding a just and durable solution of the problem in the interest of peace and justice.

The Prime Ministers reiterated their commitment to the principles of Non-Align-

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ment and noted with satisfaction that the Non-Aligned Movement had been unceasingly struggling against colonialism and imperialism, for the consolidation of the political and economic sovereignty of the newly independent dent countries and for the establishment of a new international economic order. The Prime Ministers reaffirmed their desire that India and Vietnam, both members of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries, would closely cooperate with each

other and with other Non-Aligned Countries in dealing with inter-national questions at major international fora, thereby enabling the Non-aligned movement to make an active contribution to the promotion of world peace and international cooperation. In this context, the Prime Minister of India felicitated the Government and the people of Vietnam on Vietnam's admission to the UN and other organizations of the UN system and expressed the view that this would strengthen the Non-aligned movement in the UN and enable Vietnam to play its due role as a member of the international community.

The Prime Ministers agreed that the historic decisions of the Conference of Heads of States/Governments of Non-Aligned Countries in Colombo continue to provide necessary guidelines for their common struggle for peace, national independence and international cooperation. They reaffirmed the spirit of the Colombo decisions which had been clearly reflected at the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau in New Delhi in April 1977 and they were confident that it would continue to guide the deliberations of the Group at the coming Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau in Kabul and the Conference of Foreign Ministers in Belgrade and in preparing for the Sixth Conference of Heads of States Governments of Non-aligned countries in Havana in 1979.

The Prime Ministers attached great importance to the Non-Aligned Countries devising a common strategy for the ensuing Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly on Disarmament and expressed the hope that the Session would produce concrete results and take mankind at least one step forward towards the goal of universal and complete disarmament, which would release enormous resources for development and free mankind from the threat of a nuclear holocaust.

The Prime Ministers expressed their concern over the difficulties and obstacles which have come in the way of the establishment of a New International Economic Order.

They noted that the results of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation held

in Paris fell far short of its objectives and the expectations of the developing countries and that even on such vital issues as transfer of development resources, stabilisation of export earnings of the developing countries, protection of their purchasing power and special measures in favour of Most Seriously Affected Countries and Landlocked Countries, no concrete agreements had been reached.

The Prime Ministers were convinced that, closely united, the developing countries would be victorious in their common struggle for a new international economic order based on justice and equity and expressed the hope that the international community would soon take up the unresolved questions and reach meaningful agreements. They emphasised the primary responsibility of the developed countries in this regard and felt that a constructive and imaginative approach and political will on their part would produce real changes in the international economic system.

The Prime Ministers reviewing the relations between their countries were gratified that these relations were marked by increasing consolidation of close friendly ties and development of mutually beneficial cooperation. They agreed that the visit to. India by the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was a major contribution to the consolidation of friendship between the two countries and hoped that bilateral cooperation on a widening horizon would attain increasing heights in the years to come.

The Prime Minister of India in this connection reaffirmed the sincere desire of the people of India to share their experience, expertise and skills with the people of Vietnam as a modest contribution to the task of national reconstruction in Vietnam, which rightly deserves the full and sincere support of the international community.

On the occasion of the visit, the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam signed Agreements on Cooperation in the Field of Science & Technology, on Co-

operation in the Field of Agricultural Research, on Trade and Economic Cooperation

163 and on Government-to-Government Credit of Rs. 100 million.

The Government of India have also agreed to loan 300 000 tonnes of wheat to the Government of Vietnam. A Commercial Credit of Rs. 300 million by India to Vietnam has also been agreed to and a Programme for Cultural Exchange, within the framework of the Cultural Agreement signed on December 17, 1976, has also been finalised.

The Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam thanked the Prime Minister and the people of India for the cordial and warm reception that the Government and the people of India had extended to him and his delegation.

The Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam extended a cordial invitation to the Prime Miniter of India to visit Vietnam. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

VIETNAM INDIA USA LATVIA MALI NAMIBIA SOUTH AFRICA SRI LANKA AFGHANISTAN YUGOSLAVIA CUBA FRANCE

Date: Mar 01, 1978

Volume No 1995 ZIMBABWE Shri Vajpayee's Statement on Proposal to set up a Puppet Black Zimbabwe Gover Government in

The Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, made the following statement in the Rajya Sabha on March 20, 1978 in response to a Calling Attention Notice. The Notice was served by Shri Bipinpal Das and three others:

The present problem in Zimbabwe arises directly out of the unilateral declaration of independence in 1965, by the minority government headed by Ian Smith. Notwithstanding qualitative change in the situation in southern Africa, consequent upon the dissolution of the Portugese Empire in 1975, this regime continued, largely because of the active support extended to it by the racist regime in South Africa. Meanwhile, national liberation movements in the areas have been gaining momentum.

The Geneva Conference on constitutional arrangements convened in 1976 failed to achieve any definite results except the emergence of a consensus that Zimbabwe should attain independence latest by March, 1978. Important disagreements remained particularly regarding the question of who should control army and the role of the minority during the transition to independence.

Thereupon, the Frontline States coordinated their efforts in assisting liberation movements in Zimbabwe and promoting unity in their rank. The O.A.U. Summit held in Libreville in 1977 recognised the Patriotic Front as the sole liberation movement of Zimbabwe.

It is against this background that the combined diplomatic efforts of Dr. Owen of U.K. and Ambassador Young of USA led to the formulation of the well-known sevenpoint Anglo-US proposals in September 1977 for negotiated settlement of the Zimbabwean problem.

The Frontline States had welcomed certain positive features of Anglo-US proposals. The patriotic Front had reservations with regard to the envisaged presence of U.N. force as well as about the role and power of the British Resident Commissioner. We had extended support to these proposals if these could lead to the removal of the illegal Ian Smith regime and the formation of a democratically elected government based on universal adult suffrage.

These proposals were taken note of by the Security Council which authorised the U.N. Secretary General to appoint a representative to enter into discussions with all concerned parties relating to the military and associated arrangements considered

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necessary to effect transition to majority rule in Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe). In pursance to this, Lt. Gen. Prem Chand from our country was named by the U.N. Secretary General as his representative. The British Resident Commissioner, Lord Carver and Lt. Gen. Prem. Chand held talks with, Ian Smith in Salisbury. Talks were held in Malta from January 31 to February 3, 1978 between the British Foreign Secretary, David Owen, U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young and Patriotic Front Leaders Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo. Ian Smith did not participate in these talks. Some progress was achieved there in narrowing down the differences on the precise arrangements for transition to majority rule in Zimbabwe.

Meanwhile, Ian Smith conducted talks with African leaders based within Zimbabwe namely Bishop Muzorewa, and Reverend Sithole and Chief Chirau. These talks resulted in the internal settlement which Hon'ble Members have rightly characterised as the setting up of a puppet government in Zimbabwe by Mr. Ian Simth under the cover of constitutional settlement.

Mr. Chairman, this arrangement between Smith and a few selected African leaders within Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), apart from excluding any role for the United Kingdom and United Nations, preserves the weighted position for the white minority at least for ten years. It is contrary to U.N. Resolutions on the subject. Moreover, the elections envisaged under it do not conform to the principle of one-manone-vote on single electoral roll basis.

As the House is aware, when the situation came up for discussion some days ago at the U.N. Security Council, we reiterated that the Ian Smith regime is illegal and that, therefore, any settlement negotiated by it directly with certain groups inside or outside Southern Rhodesia would ipso facto also be illegal; that the de jure responsibility for decolonisation of Zimbabwe in conformity with relevant Security Council and General Assembly Resolutions remains with the U.K. We stressed that the majority rule should be brought about through the free exercise of the right of the people there for self-determination.

We are of the view that the present situation calls for a new approach - a constructive, creative and positive approach - to seek out the elements that are broadly acceptable to all the parties and conform to the principle and purposes of the Anglo-U.S. proposals - and thereafter to achieve the restoration of legality in Zimbabwe. We remain convinced that any attempted arrangement for transition which excludes the Patriotic Front is likely to lead to civil strife in and around Zimbabwe and view the consequences of such a situation as dreadful.

Such an approach is shared by the majority of the members of the U.N. as would be clear by the recent Security Council Resolution adopted without dissent which condemns the internal settlement as illegal and unacceptable.

Sir, our Prime Minister has been in touch with the leaders of the Frontline States and Zimbabwe leaders as well as with British and U.S. leaders on this matter. Our diplomatic efforts are guided by the belief that greater efforts than those made hitherto are necessary for evolving a common approach acceptable to the Frontline States and African nationalist leaders so as to ensure time bound and effective transition to constitutional arrangements leading to genuine African majority rule. Moreover, we will continue to extend our moral, diplomatic, political and material support to our African brethren in eliminating this vestige of colonialism.

ZIMBABWE USA SOUTH AFRICA SWITZERLAND GABON UNITED KINGDOM CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC MALTA

Date: Mar 01, 1978

April

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AFGHANISTAN INDIA USA IRAN LEBANON NAMIBIA NEPAL LATVIA PAKISTAN SRI LANKA SWITZERLAND SYRIA TANZANIA UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Date: Apr 01, 1978

Volume No

AFGHANISTAN

Cultural Exchange Programme Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on April 18, 1978 on the signing of the Indo-Afghan cultural exchange programme;

An Indo-Afghan Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 1978-79 was signed in New Delhi on April 18, 1978. The two signatories were Dr. P. C. Chunder, Minister of Education, Social Welfare and Culture, and H.E. Dr. Abdul Rahim Nevin, Minister of Information and Culture of Afghanistan.

The programme envisages cooperation between the two countries in the fields of education, information, culture and sports.

Besides cooperating in the joint research and teaching programme, both sides will exchange visits by educationist in the fields of development and management studies, scientific research and languages.

EXCHANGE OF LITERATURE

In addition to exchange of literature and publications between the selected universities in the two countries, the National Library of Calcutta and the Aligarh Library will exchange publications with the National Libraries of Afghanistan. India will supply micro-films relating to the historical textual material on Indo-Afghan monuments to the Kabul University.

Indian experts will visit Afghanistan for assisting the newly established Afghans Television Organisation and for preservation and repairs of historical buildings and monuments of Timuri relies and Herat.

Both sides will cooperate in the excavations at Bagram and explorations in the Farah Valley. They will also hold seminars on "Indo-Afghan Cultural Relations through the ages".

Under the agreement, India will offer 40 scholarships to Afghan students for undergraduate and post-graduate studies. The two countries will also take action on proposals regarding the recognition of diplomas and certificates awarded by the educational institutions in India and Afghanistan. In the field of sports, India will send a hockey coach to Afghanistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Chunder highlighted the age-old ties and the close similarity of cultures of the two countries. He expressed the hope that with the signing of the agreement, the friendship and brotherhood between India and Afghanistan will be further strengthened.

Reciprocating the sentiments expressed by the Minister of Education, Dr. Nevin felt that India and Afghanistan shared a common heritage which should be preserved and maintained not only for the prosperity of the two countries but for the world as well. Both the countries have had a common outlook and hold similar policies on world problems as both of them belong to the non-aligned world, he said.

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AFGHANISTAN INDIA

Date: Apr 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

HOLLAND

Dutch Assistance to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on April 27, 1978 on an assistance to India from Holland:

Netherlands will assist India to the tune of 218 million guilders during the current year as a concentration country in the Dutch Development Cooperation policy.

An agreement to that effect was signed in The Hague on April 26 by the Indian Ambassador, Shri M. Rasgotra and the Dutch authorities, The amount consists of a grant of 11 million guilders and loan of 207 guilders on easy terms.

INDIA

Date: Apr 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND ATOMIC ENERGY

India's Cooperation with Foreign Countries in Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on April 5, 1978:

Nine countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America have sought India's cooperation for developing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, told the Lok Sabha in a written reply to a question by Shri D. B. Chandra Gowda on April 5, 1978 that the countries are: Algeria, Columbia, Guyana, Medagascar, Peru, Mexico, Venezeula, Indonesia and Vietnam. He added that India is wilting to cooperate with friendly countries in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Bilateral agreements for cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of atomic energy have

been entered into with Afghanistan, Argentiana, Belgium, Bangladesh, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Arab Republic of Egypt, France, F.R.G., G.D.R., Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Poland, Romania, U.S.A., and U.S.S.R.

INDIA USA ALGERIA GUYANA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC MEXICO PERU VIETNAM AFGHANISTAN BANGLADESH BELGIUM CANADA EGYPT NORWAY SLOVAKIA FRANCE HUNGARY IRAN IRAQ ITALY OMAN POLAND ROMANIA

Date: Apr 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND ATOMIC ENERGY

Prime Minister's Statement on Supply of Enriched Uranium to Tarapur Atomi Atomic Power Plant

The following is the text of the statement made by the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, in the Lok Sabha in New Delhi on April 25, 1978, in response to a Calling Attention Notice regarding the reported decision of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to ignore its contractual obligation to supply India with 7.6 tonnes of enriched uranium and reaction of the Government thereto:

As I explained on the floor of the House on the 23rd March 1978 in response to a Calling Attention Notice, our application for export licence of 7.6 tonnes of enriched uranium for Tarapur Atomic Plant was

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referred to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission by the U.S. Administration. This was done on 26th January, 1978 and the consignment was due for delivery in Sep. tember 1977. But the matter was not disposed of by the Commission in time and only at the latest meeting of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission last week the question has been referred back to the U.S. Administration that on account of equality of votes, the Commission has been unable to come to a decision. The matter now rests with the U.S. President. According to the American law however even after the U.S. President decides to authorise the export, the matter will have to be laid before the U.S. Congress for sixty working days and it is open to the Congress if it so decides to annul the President's action. In other words it would mean that if the President takes a decision in favour of authorising the shipment, we have to wait for 60 working days within which the U.S. Congress can annul the President's action, but if they do not annul the President's action it will remain cofirmed.

The supply of enriched uranium is regulated by an Agreement for cooperation between the Governments of the United States and India dated 25th October, 1963 followed by a Contract between the United States Atomic Energy Commission acting on behalf of the Government of U.S.A. and the Government of India dated the 17th May, 1966. The Atomic Energy Commission of the United States has been abolished and now the matter rests with the U.S. Administration on the recommendation of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

I would not trouble the Hon'ble Members with the details of the provisions of the Agreement and the Contract. Under the Provisions of these documents the United States Government is bound to provide us with all the fuel for Tarapur upto 1994 and at the same time they bind us not to obtain the required fuel for Tarapur from any other source during this period. There is also the provision in the Contract to the effect that if the applicable domestic laws or policies of U.S.A. with respect to ownership and supply of such nuclear material for use by the American domestic distributees be changed, the parties agree to consult with each other to determine the modification of any requirements of the Contract in order to conform to the laws and policies in force. At the same time it provides that nothing contained in the relevant Article shall affect the obligation of the U.S. Government to sell all of our requirement of enriched uranium for Tarapur Atomic Power Station, nor would it enlarge the financial obligations and responsibilities of the Government of India to the Government of United States as provided in the Contract.

To my mind, therefore, it is quite clear that neither the domestic laws nor the domestic policies of USA can affect the supply of Tarapur's requirements of enriched uranium and consequently both the delay in the supply of enriched uranium for purposes of Tarapur and, whatever the circumstances, the refusal to supply such requirements would be a breach of the Agreement.

PRESENT REQUISITION

Under the present requisitions pending with the United States Government, supplies were due in September 1977 and are due in April 1978, June 1978 and October 1978. The supplies of September 1977 have not reached us and another instalment of supplies has become due. I am sorry that I am unable to appreciate the delays in processing our requisitions. The procedure regarding reference to. Nuclear Regulatory Commission should have been resorted to in full recognition of the need for timely compliance with our requisition. We have held patience for so long and even the promise of the President of the United States made within the precincts of this august House in January last does not appear to have weighted with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in their deliberations over this matter. I have no doubt that the United States President actuated as he is by high moral purpose and in conformity with his obligation under the Agreement and Contract and in fulfilment of his promise will reach an early decision. But the requirements of laying his decision before the Congress will delay the supplies at least for another three months. This situation in itself is not alarming because I am assured that the present stocks of fuel will be sufficient to operate one of the two units upto about 1980 and another a little beyond 1980. The interregnum gives us sufficient time to evolve alternative methods of making up for the default of U.S. Government, should

that become a lasting feature of the imple-

169 mentation of Agreement and the contract.

Nevertheless, I should like to make it clear that it is with considerable disquiet and disbelief that I view delay in compliance with our requisition of enriched uranium for Tarapur plant, let alone the fact that refusal of supply would be a breach of the Agreement. Such a delay has occured not only in the supply of enriched uranium but also in regard to our request for a joint determination to the safeguardability of our reprocessing facility as envisaged in the Cooperation Agreement. This has resulted in reduced generation of power and has prevented us from utilising the residual enriched uranium and the contained plutonium which not only has put us to substantial loss both from the material and monetary points of view but our own development has received a set-back. After the situation in regard to supply of enriched uranium against our requisition is cleared I propose to take up this question with the U.S. administration. So far as the supply of enriched uranium is concerned, I am taking up the matter with the U.S. President.

For the time being, therefore, we have to wait for such action as the President may take in order to clear our pending requisitions. I have already asked our Atomic Energy Commission to examine every alternative avenue to keep up the supplies of fuel for Tarapur plant in case the uncertainties of supplies from United States become a permanent feature. In coming to this decision I have taken fully into account the obligation of the United States to supply us with fuel and their refusal being a breach of the Agreement. I am conscious that any such refusal would bring to an end both the Agreement for cooperation and the Contract. We cannot allow such an eventuality to interfere with our programme for development of Atomic Energy for purpose of providing fuel for our power plants. I hope the House will view this matter in the light of this clarification.

Date: Apr 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT

Extension by Five Years

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on April 10, 1978 on the extension of the tripartite agreement:

The Tripartite Agreement between India, Arab Republic of Egypt and Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been extended for a further period of five years from April 1, 1978.

Letters to this effect were exchanged in New Delhi on April 10, 1978 between Minister of State for Commerce, Shri Arif Beg and the Ambassadors of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in India.

The Agreement came into effect from April 1, 1968 and was valid initially for a period of 5 years. A Protocol according special tariff concessions in customs duty for a specific list of items was added to the Agreement on October 1, 1969 and forms part and parcel of the Agreement.

The Agreement has had beneficial effects on mutual trade, exchanges of mutual economic cooperation among the three countries. Although the impact has been modest at present, it is expected that the renewed agreement will permit further trade and strengthen economic cooperation among three participating States. There are in all

134 items in the customs tariff of each of these countries which gain from preferential entry of the 50% of the effective most, favoured-nation rate of customs duties.

It is the endeavour of the participating States to multilateralise as far as possible, trade concessions exchanged among them during the next round of trade negotiations among developing countries.

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INDIA EGYPT YUGOSLAVIA USA

Date: Apr 01, 1978

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1995

IRAN

Three-Year Cultural Exchange Programme

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on April 25, 1978 on the three year cultural exchange programme between India and Iran:

India and Iran have signed a three-year Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 1978-1980.

The Programme signed in Teheran, contains nearly fifty items ranging over activities in the fields of Art and Culture, Higher Education and Science, Education, Radio, Television & Press, and Sports.

The two countries have agreed upon participation in film festivals organised by either, besides cooperation in the field of radio, television and production of documentary and feature films. They have also agreed to exchange dance and music ensembles, and experts in the fields of archaeology for restoration of historical monuments,

besides exchanges of exhibition and of books and publications between the Universities of the two countries. Either side will offer three scholarships to the nationals of the other country. Also a Chair of Indology will be set up at the Teheran University.

The Programme was signed by Shri A. S. Gill, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Education & Social Welfare, and Department of Culture on behalf of India. Shri Gill led a 4-member delegation to the meeting of the Joint Commission between the two countries where the agreement was worked out.

IRAN INDIA USA

Date: Apr 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

LEBANON

Shri Vajpayee's Statement in Lok Sabha on Alleged Involvement of Indian Nationals Hostilities in Lebanon

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi an Aprill 10, 1978 when the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee made a statement in the Lok Sabha on April 10, 1978 regarding the alleged involvement of Indian Nationals in hostilities in Lebanon:

Reports had been received by the Ministry of External Affairs regarding the engagement of Indian nationals for military and paramilitary functions by various warring factions in Lebanon. Government viewed these reports with grave concern as it is Government's policy not to permit its nationals to be used as mercenaries anywhere in the world. The matter was of even graver concern because the civil strife in Lebanon had clear communal and religious overtones.

NECESSARY STEPS

Even though our Embassy in Lebanon had taken all necessary steps to prevent and discourage any such use of our nationals, we decided to depute a senior official of the Ministry of External Affairs to visit Lebanon and Syria. He had meetings and discussions with the Lebanese authorities as well as leaders of the principal warring groups in Lebanon. He conveyed to them our deep concern regarding the alleged reports about the involvement of Indian nationals in hosti-

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lities and sought their help and cooperation in preventing such use. All the leaders he met conveyed their appreciation of the policy of the Government of India and assured us of their cooperation. Furthermore, all the leaders, irrespective of their ideological and political affiliations, volunteered to give any information which they had in this connection to our Ambassador in Beirut.

As the Syrian armed forces form a part of the Arab deterrent force in Lebanon, the officer also visited Damascus and held similar discussions with Syrian authorities. The Syrian authorities, in their turn, promised their fullest cooperation.

It is possible that some of our nationals may have been used by warring factions for paramilitary functions, as many had been stranded in Beirut where they had gone in search of employment. All those who sought the assistance of the Indian Embassy were repatriated to India at Government cost. A few Indian nationals who had been detained by some of the factions in Lebanon on suspicion of being used as mercenaries by their adversaries have been released and to date there is no indication that so far Indians were actually involved in mercenary activities.

Members of Parliament would appreciate that Government have liberalised both the issuance of passports and travel abroad. Many of our nationals are proceeding abroad, particularly to West Asia, in search of employment. These liberalised regulations were

exploited by some unscrupulous agents and individuals. Steps are being taken by us here to prevent such unscrupulous agents and individuals from taking advantage of our liberalised regulations. This is being done by more vigilant checks at points of emigration.

LEBANON INDIA USA SYRIA

Date: Apr 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

NAMIBIA

Text of Shri Vajpayee's Speech at Special Session of U.N. General Assembly on Namibia

The following is a press release issued in New Delhi on April 25, 1978 of the text of the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's speech in the 9th Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly on Namibia in New, York on June 25, 1978:

We have assembled here at this 9th special session of the U.N. General Assembly devoted to the question of Namibia at a very crucial phase in the momentous struggle for human rights and freedom in Southern Africa. We are gathered together to proclaim our continued determination to make Namibian independence a reality.

WINDS OF CHANGE

In the last three decades, the map of Africa has changed swiftly. Winds of change have been blowing all over what was dubbed by colonial powers as a "Dark Continent". Colonial empires have vanished. Africa is awake. Africa is resurgent.

And yet pockets of colonialism, racial discrimination and apartheid still exist in Southern Africa. The racist minority regimes pose a challenge to the collective con-

science of humanity by their continued and brazen defiance of world opinion, callous intransigence and ever mounting barbarism, brutality and repression.

In recent years, profound changes have decisively tipped the balance of forces in favour of the completion of the process of decolonisation in the region. The victories of liberation movements of Mozambique, Angola, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde and Sao Tome and Principe have extended the fron-

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tiers of freedom in Africa right to the borders of Namibia and Zimbabwe. The foundations of the racist minority regimes of Southern Africa have been shaken.

Southern Africa stands at the threshold of freedom. National liberation movements have intensified the tempo of their struggle. The frontline states have extended full support and solidarity to them in the face of persistent attempts at undermining their stability and territorial integrity through aggression, harassment, intimidation and economic hardships inflicted on them by the racist minority regimes.

LAST CHANCE

The special session provides the United Nations with a last chance to take decisive steps to bring genuine independence to the people of Namibia. We meet here in an atmosphere of both challenge and opportunity.

It is our hope and expectation that the much delayed process of change would conic through a negotiated settlement. All our combined energies should be bent towards finding a solution through peaceful means. For if these efforts fail, the only alternative would be stepped up armed liberation struggle with all its attendant consequences.

When I addressed the 32nd session of the General Assembly last year, I had stressed the collective and direct responsibility of the U.N. for securing the complete withdrawal of South Africa's presence from Namibia and had underlined the fact that the U.N. had all the means at its disposal to do so.

The success of this special session has relevance to not only what the United Nations can do for the people of Namibia, but what it can for the universal freedom of man. Seen in this context, Namibia is not just a geographical entity on the map of the world. It has become a symbol of the final phase of struggle against colonial domination and the pernicious doctrine of superiority on grounds of race or colour of skin. Till such time as we do not completely eliminate racial discrimination and exploitation from the face of the earth, we would not be able to make liberty and human dignity a universal phenomenon.

Why are we meeting now in a special session? It is because South Africa has not only continued to ignore the legal advice of the World Court and to defy the will of the international community, but is also trying to consolidate its position in Namibia by offering it spurious independence under its own auspices. South Africa has consistently refused to recognise the legitimacy of the interests of the U.N. in Namibia.

CREDIBILITY OF U.N.

Nowhere is the credibility and authority of the U.N. at stake than in the case of Namibia which has the unique distinction of being the only national entity which is legally an international responsibility. The U.N. here has a direct responsibility by virtue of General Assembly Resolution 2145 adopted at the 21st session on 27th October, 1966. It is now for us at this special session to take measures which would enable the United Nations to discharge its obligations and prevent this world body from being made a mockery by one of its own member states.

India fully shares the sense of frustration and outrage over the fact that even though 11 years have elapsed since the United Nations terminated South Africa's mandate over Namibia, South Africa not

only retains its unlawful presence but seeks to further consolidate it by installing a puppet regime and promoting a fake internal settlement.

DANGER OF INTERNAL SETTLEMENT

Evidently the danger of a socalled internal settlement is a very real one. South Africa would like the U.N. to observe the elections to be organised by it for the purpose of legitimising an internal settlement. It is obvious to my delegation that the U.N. should denounce in advance any such internal settlement, for it will result in depriving the people of their birth-right, their natural resources and their national self-respect as well as mortgaging their future to permanent dependence on South Africa.

South Africa has master-minded the internal negotiations with a view to breaking up the territory into various tribal units, each in a state of permanent dependence on South Africa.

Its aim is clearly to perpetuate Namibia's continued overlordship by the whites so that they would remain in control of 43 per

173 cent of the area containing the best agricultural land, mineral resources and the main sea ports.

The Blacks, who outnumber the Whites by 8 to 1, tire to be given only 40 per cent of the areas consisting of poor quality land divided into the non-contiguous tribal enclaves. The remaining 17 per cent of the territory containing diamond and other mines is to remain under direct South African control.

The right to Namibians to self-determination and genuine independence is inalienable. That right must be restored to them. The historic Maputo Declaration 1977 and the more recent Lusaka Declaration adopted by the U.N. Council for Namibia at its extraordinary session in Lusaka have provided us with a correct and genuine perspective of the serious crisis and the conse-

quences if a right solution is not found expeditiously.

SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

The U.N. Security Council Resolution 385 of 1976 provides an appropriate basis for the orderly progress of Namibia towards genuine independence through free and democratic elections on the basis of one man one vote under U.N. supervision and control and with no interference of any sort from South Africa.

Mr. President, India's commitment to the struggle for liberation in Southern Africa dates back to 1893 when Mahatma Gandhi launched his non-violent crusade against apartheid in South Africa. Bonds of shared experiences and common sufferings unite us with our African brethren. I recall with pride 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.

At this special session may I once again reiterate India's firm and abiding support to the struggle of the people of Namibia for liberation from the illegal occupation by the racist minority regime. I would like to declare our complete solidarity with our valiant Namibian brethren who are carrying on the struggle for the liquidation of colonialism and racial discrimination with courage and determination.

On behalf of the Government and the people of India I would like to pay homage to all those freedom fighters who have sacrificed their lives in the long struggle, to all those who are languishing in prisons and are victims of colonial exploitation and apartheid. I would like to tell them that our prayers are with them and, more than our prayers, all the support which we can give.

Notwithstanding the odds against which the Council for Namibia has been working, it has succeeded in the difficult task of mobilising international opinion in favour of the just and legitimate struggle of the Namibian people. It has undertaken imaginative efforts to ensure that Namibia enters the comity of nations well prepared for its duties and functions.

INDIA'S ASSISTANCE

India has been an active member of the Council for Namibia ever since its creation and has cooperated in every possible manner to make the Council for Namibia effective. India would continue to render assistance to the Namibian people both bilaterally through SWAPO, which we regard as a sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people, as well as multi-laterally through the various U.N. agencies. India pledeges its full support for the successful execution of the nationhood programme of Namibia not only for the present period of struggle for independence but also for the initial years of independence.

TRADITION OF NON-VIOLENCE

In keeping with our tradition of non-violence and resolving conflicts along the path of peace and negotiations, we would be happy if even at this late hour, the questions of Namibia is settled peacefully without bloodshed or violence.

We are at the same time aware of the historical circumstances in which armed struggle has been forced on the liberation movements of Namibia and Zimbabwe. It is upto the United Nations and its Member States to try to minimise bloodshed and further suffering and frustration by using all means at their command in ensuring a peaceful and rapid transition to genuine majority rule and independence.

Mr. President, negotiated settlement should not be a ruse for buying time or finding temporary palliatives. My Government will lend its support to all initiatives which

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sincerely and seriously aim at working out a peaceful transition to total and complete independence of the people of Namibia and the total eradication of the evil practices of racism and apartheid.

We would welcome if the change is brought about peacefully. But if these efforts do not succeed due to the obduracy of the South African regime and armed struggle becomes necessary, India would continue to fully support and help the patriotic forces. both morally and materially.

The Security Council has not so far taken any formal action to implement its Resolution 385, although the Contact group of 5 western countries - Members of the Security Council - who have diplomatic relations with the Pretoria Regime, have been discussing with that regime and SWAPO the mechanics of implementing that Resolution.

SWAPO has expressed its readiness to follow the path of negotiations and has been considering western proposals. Recently we had the pleasure of welcoming Sam Nujoma in New Delhi. My talks with him convinced me that SWAPO has an open mind for any peaceful initiatives that could lead to a genuine change in Namibia and a just solution of all connected problems.

FIVE-MEMBER CONTACT GROUP

For nearly a year, talks have been going on on the initiative of the 5-member contact group of Western countries. The latest proposals of 30th March presented by the contact group of Western countries to SWAPO and the Government of South Africa are in the right direction but fall short of certain crucial elements. We recognise that these efforts are well meaning. However, we have to see if they go far enough.

SWAPO has shown flexibility in the negotiations and as Sam Nujoma has repeatedly said in recent weeks, SWAPO has made concessions and displayed a constructive spirit.

Mr. President, India feels that the world community should not fritter away a change if there is one for reaching negotiated settlement in case honourable and reasonable conditions are being created for it.

However, there has been no evidence so far that South Africa is sincerely interested in giving up Its colonial designs in Namibia, On the contrary, it has tried to annex Walvis Bay. While carrying on negotiations with the 5 Western Powers it has also been promoting an internal settlement, creating tribal armies, dividing up the territory along tribal lines and persecuting nationalist forces. There are also disturbing reports of preparations for testing nuclear weapons in the Namibian desert. Given South Africa's record of aggression against its African neighbours, there is no doubt that the policies and actions of the Pretoria regime in Namibia constitute a threat to international peace and security.

Unless effective political, economic and diplomatic pressure is brought to bear on the South African regime, the process of negotiations is unlikely to make real headway. On the recommendations of the Maputo Conference the Security Council adopted a Resolution last year placing arms embargo on South Africa. If South Africa continues to be uncooperative and does not accept reasonable proposals, the United Nations would have to take the next logical step of applying sanctions against it in terms of chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter, demanded in the recent Lusaka Declaration.

ROLE OF U.N.

In any solution which is being worked out, we cannot acquiesce in any effort seeking to limit or diminish the role of the U.N. and the U.N. Council for Namibia in the transition to independence nor can we grant any measure of recognition to the illegal occupying forces of South Africa in Namibia.

The announcement by South Africa today of the acceptance of western proposals suffers from these two serious limitations. According to South Africa "the primary responsibility for maintaining law and order during the transitional period shall rest with the existing police forces" and "that the issue of Walvis Bay is not included in the proposals". We would like to know the attitude of the Western powers on these points and the assurances or clarifications given by them to South Africa based on which it was announced the acceptance of the western proposals in a very dramatic way.

According to the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada the decision con-

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cerning the future of Walvis Bay should be discussed between the South African Government and the elected government of Namibia. But we would like to know their view on this question. Do the western powers regard Walvis Bay as an integral part of Namibia? A clear declaration in this regard is necessary.

The silence of the western powers on the question of the future of Walvis Bay and the hesitation to adopt a clearcut attitude regarding the leading and not secondary role of the U.N. in the transitional period and in ensuring completely free and impartial elections leaves further room for negotiations,

PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. President, in our view, the following elements should determine the conditions and steps which could ensure immediate and genuine independence of Namibia through peaceful negotiations:

- (i) Termination of South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia and accession to complete independence by the end of this year.
- (ii) Free and democratic elections under direct U.N. supervision and control on the basis of one man one vote. This clearly implies rejection of any so called internal settlement.
- (iii) Recognition of the territorial integrity of Namibia and of Walvis Bay as an integral part of Namibia. There should be withdrawal of military bases of South Africa in Walvis

Bay since they constitute a threat to the territorial integrity and national security of Namibia.

(iv) Stepped up assistance to Namibians by the international community in the task of economic reconstruction in the post-independence phase. Full support should be given to the nationhood programme and all other projects and plans designed to prepare the people of Namibia in the skills and expertise needed to build a strong, stable and independent Namibia.

Both the General Assembly and the Security Council have to supplement and complement each other in promoting an early and effective solution to the problem. Time is running out. The, U.N. must act and act quickly and purposefully. The U.N. cannot afford to fail. If it does, it will be a severe blow to the cause of freedom and human rights. It will be a severe set-back to the role of the United Nations in international affairs. It will have grave consequences on the tenuous fabric of peace in the region and in the world.

Freedom has been too long denied to Namibia. Let it not be delayed any longer. Let us work for bringing the day nearer when like their fellow brethren elsewhere, the people of Namibia would breathe the air of liberty and join, on the basis of equality and justice, in the collective endeavours of the human race to build a new world of its dreams.

Much has been spoken on Namibia over a whole decade. Year after year Resolutions have been adopted and Declarations made. Enough lip service has been paid to the principle of majority rule. We must now proceed from deliberations to decisive action. The time for a final step is here and now.

Thank you, Mr. President.

NAMIBIA INDIA USA MOZAMBIQUE ANGOLA CAPE VERDE GUINEA GUINEA-BISSAU ZIMBABWE SOUTH AFRICA ZAMBIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CANADA

Date: Apr 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

NAMIBIA

Text of Shri Vajpayee's Speech at Dinner in Honour of Mr. Sam Nujoma

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on April 1, 1978 when the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, held a dinner in honour of H.E. Mr. Sam Nujoma, President of the South - West African People's Organisation. Proposing the toast, Shri Vajpayee said:

Your Excellency and Friends, I should like to begin by extending to you and to the members of your delegation a warm and affectionate welcome to our country. The

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Government and the people of India have watched with admiration the leadership and guidance Your Excellency has provided to the South West African People's Organisation. which is the sole and authentic representative of the people struggling for the independence of Namibia. We have extended our full and unequivocal support to the people of Namibia to their inalienable right to self determination and independence.

Your Excellency. your visit to India is particularly timely in view of the forth-coming Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Namibia. to which India attaches great importance. We are happy that your visit has provided us with the opportunity to have an extremely useful exchange of views. This will assist us greatly in endeavouring together with other Nonaligned countries to utilise the occasion of

the Special Session to make rapid progress towards the independence of Namibia.

It is a matter of deep concern to the Government and the people of India that although more than 11 years have elapsed since the United Nations terminated South Africa's mandate and made the territory of South West Africa a direct responsibility of the United Nations, the racist regime in South Africa has continued its illegal occupation and has even attempted to further consolidate its oppressive rule over Namibia. The numerous resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and of the Security Council. clearly denouncing the illegality of South Africa's occupation of Namibia. have had no impact on the policies of the regime in South Africa. The entire world community has condemned South Africa for its refusal to withdraw from Namibia and for its actions to consolidate its illegal occupation by extending its policy of Bantustans to Namibia. The credibility and the authority of the United Nations has been flouted and defied by South Africa by its policies relating to Namibia, which has the status of an international territory.

COLOMBO CONFERENCE

The Fifth Conference of the Heads of State or Government of Non-aligned countries meeting in Colombo in August 1976, had strongly condemned South Africa for its persistent refusal to withdraw from Namibia and for its manoeuvres to consolidate its illegal occupation by its policy of Bantustans or the so-called homeland aimed at violating the national unity and the territorial integrity of Namibia. The Summit Conference strongly condemned the so-called constitutional talks as calculated to frustrate the legitimate aspirations of the Namibian people. defy the international community and perpetuate South Africa's domination of the territory. The Conference also took the view that if the South Africa's regime was really interested in just solution. it should meet immediately under the auspices of the United Nations with the legitimate representatives of the Namibian people that is SWAPO for the purpose of making the necessary

arrangement for the transfer of power. Alternatively. South Africa should scrupulously and unequivocally comply with the decisions of the Security Council as contained in Resolution 385 of January 1976. This Resolution inter alia stimulated that free elections under the supervision and control of the United Nations be held for the whole of Namibia as one political entity.

INITIATIVE OF FIVE POWER GROUP

We are aware that there has been an initiative by the Five-Power contact group and although it appears to make some movement. the progress towards the independence of Namibia has been painfully slow. We trust that the right conditions will be created which would enable the holding of free and fair elections in Namibia.

Your Excellency, India has consistently supported the struggles of the peoples under colonial yolk to become free. because we firmly believe that freedom. like peace, is indivisible and that mankind's struggle for true freedom is incomplete until we have succeeded in completely eradicating political domination, economic exploitation and racial discrimination wherever these evils continue. The liberation movement in Namibia represents perhaps the last of the freedom struggles waged by the peoples of the world against colonial domination. In Southern Africa itself, the emergence of independent Angola and Mozambique has extended the frontiers of freedom to the borders of Namibia and Zimbabwe and we feel confident that under the leadership of SWAPO, Namibia will soon gain its independence and occupy its rightful place in the comity of nations.

The Government and the people of India are determined to continue unstinted moral, political, diplomatic and material support to

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the speedy achievement of independence in Namibia.

I would now request all those present here to join me in a toast - to the health of His Excellency, Mr. Sam Nujoma; to the health of the members of his delegation; to the people of Namibia, and to the speedy success in the struggle waged by SWAPO against oppressors and occupiers in Namibia.

NAMIBIA INDIA USA SOUTH AFRICA SRI LANKA ANGOLA MOZAMBIQUE ZIMBABWE

Date: Apr 01, 1978

Volume No

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NEPAL

India to Provide Rs. 12.45 Crores for Irrigation Projects

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on April 7, 1978:

An agreement was signed in New Delhi on April 7, 1978 between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government of Nepal for the renovation and extension of the Chandra Canal System, construction of a pumped canal from Western Kosi Canal for lift irrigation and construction and distribution system from Western Kosi Canal in Nepal. The estimated cost for these works is likely to be Rs. 12.45 crores (Rs. 18.05 crores Nepalese Currency)

The agreement was signed by Mr. D. R. Koirala, Secretary, Ministry of Food, Agriculture & Irrigation on behalf of Nepal and Shri C. C. Patel, Secretary (Irrigation) for India.

Chandra Canal System will provide irrigation to an area of 10,201 hectares while the lift irrigation from Western Kosi Canal will benefit net command area of 13180 hectares. Western Kosi Canal distribution system will irrigate 11,300 hectares. These projects will benefit a total area of 34,690

hectares in Nepal.

The planning and execution of these works shall be undertaken by Nepal. The works are to be completed not later than June, 1981.

The agreement further paves the way for greater cooperation between the two countries for the utilisation of water resources.

NEPAL INDIA LATVIA

Date: Apr 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Shri Morarji Desai's Banquet for Prime Minister of Nepal

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on April 15, 1978:

Welcoming the Prime Minister of Nepal and Shrimati Bista at a banquet given by him on the evening of April 15, 1978, the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai said "the visit is further evidence of the new spirit of trust, confidence and understanding that is now a happy feature of Indo-Nepal relations".

Shri Desai referred to India's efforts to forge beneficial bilateral relations with all her neighbours "so that the energies of the people of the sub-continent are free for constructive, social and economic endeavours." He said "We have made earnest endeavours to assure our friends in our neighbourhood that India wants to live in peace and harmony with all its neighbours and is sincere about forging cooperative relations based on res-

pect for each other's sovereignty, equality and dignity. We do not believe in any inter-

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ference in the internal affairs of our neighbours. Through, the visits of my colleague, the Foreign Minister to various neighbouring countries and exchanges with the leaders of all our neighbouring countries during the last few months, we are confident that our policies carry conviction. Our only motivation is a sincere desire for closer ties of friendship, the removal of past misunderstanding and the exploration of fresh pastures of mutually advantageous cooperation and understanding. We believe that this process is a helpful contribution to the larger effort of bringing into being a broad region of peace and future prosperity in the area in which we live. Only through the realisation of our mutual inter-dependence within the region can an uninterrupted interchange of commerce, eocnomic and cultural exchange, flourish."

RELIGIOUS SHRINES

Shri Desai said that besides Delhi the guests will be going to different parts of India and will visit religious shrines and also have an opportunity of meeting people from different walks of life and to see India's achievements in various fields. "The programme that has been drawn up is a reminder of the myriad links in religion. history and culture, social, economic and commercial inter-dependence, which is the reality of the situation between India and Nepal. You will re-discover the profound and sincere goodwill that exists for Nepal amongst our people and the commitment that India as a whole, shares to the further development and consolidation of the permanence of our friendship."

The Prime Minister said it was only appropriate to review the highlights in the relations between the two countries not in a mood of complacency but in faith and hope so as to carry forward the momentum already generated. "There is proof positive that no matter how difficult the issue and for how long it remains unresolved, given sensitivity to each other's interests, appreciation

of each other's needs and sympathy for each other's genuine aspirations and difficulties, there can be no insurmountable hurdles in seeking solutions to outstanding problems through mutual accommodation and understanding. I have in mind particularly the successful conclusion of the Trade and Transit Treaties and the agreements that go with these."

"On our part, we clearly recognise the right of Nepal as a sovereign, independent country to conduct international trade in the light of her economic needs, as determined by Nepal. As the country whose territory is involved in the movement of Nepal's international trade, we are happy to assume obligations within the framework of our mutual interests. We hope that the agreements would now give an impetus to shifting the emphasis towards the process of industrialisation in Nepal, which would be of benefit to the further growth of Indo-Nepal trade and our long-term friendship. The products of Nepal based on indigenous raw materials and the skills of her people could become the new symbols of our cooperation."

RESTRUCTURE OF ECONOMY

Shri Desai also referred to the steps taken by Nepal to restructure her economy and to encourage the growth of Nepalese industry. While welcoming this development he gave the assurance that India would be prepared to give whatever assistance is possible.

The Prime Minister referred to the agreement between the two countries and said "they go to prove that only through trust and confidence can we beget more trust and confidence. They vindicate our faith in the benefit we both derive from the unique institution of the open border, which we cherish as a living symbol of Indo-Nepal friendship."

"There have been since we last met, satisfactory beginnings on joint studies on specific projects for the utilisation of the enormous water potential of the rivers that flow from Nepal into India. Even within the five months of our last meeting encouraging progress has been made in the implementation of decisions taken by us together for the exploitation of water resources to the mutual benefit of India and Nepal. As I said when I was in Kathmandu, India would like to share only such surplus of water and energy which Nepal cannot use, for the growing needs of our peoples.

Through these steps I hope we can together reverse the tide of losses suffered by our peoples over the last thirty years. We must together determine to give our two

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peoples the benefits of irrigation and energy facilities denied for so long to them. It is gratifying that at long last an atmosphere of mutual understanding has developed between India and Nepal which augurs well for the fulfilment of our people's expectations and needs to benefit through our joint efforts at harnessing our permanent natural resources. We must take every care not to disappoint them.

NEPAL INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC LATVIA

Date: Apr 01, 1978

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NEPAL

Nepalese Prime Minister's Reply

Replying to the toast, Shri Bista said:

Your Excellency, I am very happy today to come once again to this great country of yours whose destiny you are guiding and with whom we in Nepal have shared so many things in common. I particularly appreciate the warm hospitality that we have received all around since we arrived. We have been touched by the wide and spontaneous gestures of goodwill for us and for our country. His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev has asked me to convey to you and the Indian people his own personal good wishes as well as those of the people of Nepal as a whole.

I would like on this occasion, Mr. Prime, Minister, to recall your recent visit to Nepal and the deep impression you have personally made on our people.

HAPPY STATE OF RELATIONS

I am fully satisfied with the present happy state of relations between our two countries. We have not taken these relations for granted; instead we have nurtured them like a plant with the constant care of gardener. I believe this is the only approach we can take. What is particularly agreeable about the traditional friendship between us is that it takes into full account the fact that we are two sovereign independent nations and that we are such close neighbours. This responsiveness to each other's national sensitivities coupled with the recognition of the reality of neighbourliness has imparted an element of dynamism in our relations. It is necessary in these circumstances that we regularly exchange our views in confidence and friendliness. The full and friendly exchange of views that His Majesty held with you when he visited Delhi a little more than a year ago and that you yourself held with him during your recent visit to Kathmandu has not only reaffirmed but also, I believe, greatly strengthened our friendship. I have come today to continue the same exchange in the same traditional spirit of friendship with you and other leaders of India.

PEACE IN THE REGION

We in Nepal have watched with interest and appreciation the efforts, Your Excellency, that your Government is making to generate a climate of peace in this region. We have noted that the general situation has considerably improved and we hope that it will continue to improve further. As nothing is nearer to our heart in Nepal than peace in the region as well as in the world, I am confident that you will appreciate if I say in this connection that we. too, have striven, consistently and steadfastly, to contribute what little we can towards the same noble objective of peace. We believe that peace is essential not only for its sake but also for our own social and economic development. We have spared no effort to maintain a relationship of friendship with all of our neighbours. Our relations with India have always been close and deep; and as I see them today in the light of the progress we have achieved continuously, I am happy that the understanding that we maintain and exercise is dynamic enough to take care of the changes that time brings.

VOLUME OF TRADE

The great volume of trade and commerce that flows between us, a major programme of economic development which we are carrying out with your assistance a great token of friendship which we deeply appreciate - and, above all, the recently concluded treaties of trade and transit which reflect mutual understanding of a high level are a measure of this continuous but dynamic understanding that has characterized our relations. I think the ground has been pre-

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pared for our two countries for even wider economic cooperation, including joint enterprises and transfer of technology and capital Whose objective is Nepal's industrial development to mutual advantage.

We have been Impressed in Nepal with the achievements that India has made since independence in the political. economic and cultural fields. We have no doubt that your achievements in future will be even greater. The alertness and vigilance which you have exercised in the creation of the society you envisage have proved equal to the demand that liberty makes on a nation.

As you have done in India, we have

dedicated ourselves in Nepal to the difficult task of social and economic development under the leadership of our beloved Sovereign. The development we aim at is one that is balanced between geographical areas and between the material and cultural needs of the community. We are conscious of many handicaps; but we know that the people are united and endowed with a sense of purpose and willing to work hard. International good will has been a great source of strength for us and we are anxious that this is constructively used and not allowed to dissipate. The Panchayat system has given us a sense of history, identity and direction to meet the manifold challenge of development that Nepal faces today.

As non-aligned nations, Nepal and India have shared a common world view in many respects. We, are watching, like you, with the closest attention the recent developments in the Middle East and are doing actively what we can towards the promotion and maintenance of peace. Our views based on the United Nations decisions are well known. In southern Africa the situation is developing fast so as to need urgent solution. In addition, Nepal and India have worked together to promote the cause of a fairer sea regime and a fairer international economic order. We in Nepal believe that while these large issues require intense discussion within the third world itself for mutual accommodation of interests, the sharpest line of division has been between the developed countries on the one hand and the developing countries in general on the other. We intend to continue to work cooperatively with India and other like-minded countries on these and other matters.

In conclusion, let me propose a toast to the health and happiness of His Excellency the President of India; to the health and happiness of His Excellency Shri Morarji Desai, the Prime Minister of India; to the peace, progress and happiness of the people of India; and to the ever-growing friendship between India and Nepal. **Date**: Apr 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Joint Communique

The following is the text of the India-Nepal Joint Communique:

At the invitation of the Prime Minister of India, Shri Morarji Desai, the Prime Minister of Nepal, The Rt. Hon'ble Shri Kirti Nidhi Bista paid a visit to India from April 15 to 25, 1978. The Prime Minister of Nepal was accompanied by Shrimati Bodh Kumari Bista, Shri U. D. Bhatt, Foreign Secretary of Nepal, Shri D. D. Bhatt, Secretary to the Prime Minister, Shri N. B. Shah, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other senior officials of His Majesty's Government of Nepal. During his stay in Delhi the Prime Minister of Nepal called on the President and the Vice-President of India and had two rounds of discussions with the Prime Minister of India. The Minister of Home Affairs, Minister of External Affairs, Minister of Commerce, Minister of Industry, Minister of Finance, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Minister of Energy and the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs called on the Prime Minister of Nepal.

The Prime Minister of Nepal was accorded a Civic Reception by the Delhi Municipal Corporation. He also addressed the Indian Council of World Affairs.

The Prime Minister of Nepal and his entourage, besides New Delhi, will be visiting other places in India, namely Lucknow, Trivandrum, Madras, Tirupati, Calcutta and Patna. While in Lucknow, Calcutta and Patna, the Chief Ministers of the States of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar will make courtesy calls on the Prime Minister of Nepal. In Kerala the Prime Minister of Nepal will be visiting the Iddiki Hydroelectric Project and in Madras the Guindy Industrial Estate and the Ferguson Tractor Factory. They will offer prayers at the Tirupati and Kanchipuram Temples.

The discussions between the two Prime Ministers were wide ranging encompassing both bilateral and international issues. They were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere and marked by complete understanding. The two Prime Ministers once again reiterated their resolve to adhere to the principles of non-alignment and peaceful coexistence and pledged their determination to follow the policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations.

The two Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction that the Nepal-India Treaties of Trade and Transit and the Inter-Governmental Agreement of Cooperation to control unauthorised trade had successfully been concluded and signed on March 17, 1978. The Treaties and Agreement were based on the decisions taken by them jointly in Kathmandu during the visit of the Prime Minister of India from December 9 to 11, 1977. The Prime Minister of India expressed the hope that in accordance with the access provided to Nepalese industrial products to the Indian market the process of industrialisation of Nepal would be greatly accelerated.

Against this background the Prime Minister of Nepal indicated the desire of His Majesty's Government of Nepal to set up joint Nepal-India industrial ventures in various fields. The Prime Minister of Nepal also expressed His Majesty's Government's desire to seek an industrial credit from the Government of India for the purchase of equipment, machinery, etc. and for a credit for the agriculture development bank of Nepal. It was agreed that a high-powered multi-disciplinary team of Indian officials will visit Nepal soon to identify areas in which

Nepal-India joint ventures would be set up, inter alia, in the fields of cement production, paper and pulp industries, fruit processing and canning, etc.

The progress of various projects to harness the potential of rivers, mentioned in the Joint Communique issued on the occasion of the visit of the Prime Minister of India to Nepal in December 1977, was reviewed. The two Prime Ministers expressed satisfaction at the initial steps taken jointly by both parties towards more detailed investigations of the three specified projects. They expressed their hope that the draft agreement on the Devighat Hydroelectric Project which has already been provided to His Majesty's Government will be signed soon. The Prime Minister of Nepal expressed his happiness at the Government of India's decision to increase its commitment for the renovation of Chandra Canal. construction of Pumped Canal and the distribution system of the Western Kosi Canal in Nepal, Agreement for which was signed between the two countries in New Delhi on the 7th April 1978.

The Prime Minister of India informed the Prime Minister of Nepal of the various steps taken by the Government of India to strengthen its relations with the other neighbouring countries which have contributed to the removal of tensions in the region. They expressed the confidence that on the basis of the new climate of trust and confidence which now prevails, it will be possible for the countries of the region to utilise their enormous human and material resources for common good of their peoples.

The Prime Minister of Nepal stated that Nepal was pursuing the policy of self-reliance in economic development. The two Prime Ministers expressed satisfaction that India's contribution had been beneficial to the development of Nepal. The Prime Minister of India pledged India's continued assistance in various fields of Nepal's scientific, technical and infra-structural development. In this context it was agreed by the Government of India to provide draft agreements expeditiously to His Majesty's Government on -

- (1) a 15-year soil and water conservation project in the Kosi Catchment area,
- (2) the ground survey of Dolalghat-Dhankuta Road, and
- (3) an integrated programme for the development of horticulture in Nepal.

The Prime Minister of Nepal conveyed the desire of His Majesty's Government that

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the Government of India may assist in the setting up of a Polytechnic Institute in Nepal, and for this purpose the Government of India will send a study team soon. The need for increase in the number of scholarships to qualified Nepalese students was emphasized during discussions.

The two Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction that the exchange of visits at the highest level during the last one year starting with the visit to India of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Nepal followed by the visits of the Foreign Minister and the Prime Minister of India to Nepal have led to a qualitative improvement in the relations characterised by trust and confidence between the two countries. The visit to India by the Prime Minister of Nepal reinforced the value of frequent contacts at the higher level between the two countries. The two Prime Ministers reiterated that officials of the two Governments should keep closer liaison among themselves and agreed that annual consultations should take place between them.

The Prime Minister of Nepal expressed his gratitude for the warmth and hospitality he and his wife and his entourage received in India.

The Prime Minister of Nepal extended a friendly invitation to the Prime Minister of India to visit Nepal at his convenience. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

NEPAL INDIA USA LATVIA PERU

Date: Apr 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Speech by Shri Vajpayee at Dinner in Honour of Mr. Agha Shahi

The following is the text of the speech by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs at dinner in honour of His Excellency Mr. Agha Shahi, Adviser on Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan in New Delhi on April 10, 1978:

Your Excellency and Friends, it gives me great pleasure to welcome once again Your Excellency and the members of your delegation in our midst this evening. Of my recent visit to your great country, you were good enough to say that it had been useful in improving the atmosphere for furthering relations between our countries. We are sure that your visit here will be yet another step to consolidate and continue the normalisation of our relations. We hope that the opportunity you have of meeting our leaders and our people would enable you to convey to the people and leaders of Pakistan, the warmth of our sentiments and our readiness for happier ties.

HAPPY AUGURY

It is indeed a happy augury that both our countries are endeavouring to explore avenues through which we can develop greater confidence and trust in one another. The common desire to pursue this worthy objectives has found expression in many happy gestures that both have made and which, I trust, will characterise our bilateral relations. Even during the few weeks since we met last, we have seen our hockey team learn some well-needed lessons from your

skilful players, on whose triumphant success in the World Cup, I take this opportunity to congratulate you. We had the pleasure of receiving your distinguished colleague, the Adviser on Food and Agriculture and discusu the possibilities for each of us to benefit from the experience and achievements of the other in this vital field of national development.

Our people had the privilege of enjoying the artistry of some of your most famous singers when Roshanara Begum and Malika Pukhraj graced the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of All India Radio. Some of your cricketers have been delighting the Delhi audience, and we are happy to learn that the way is now open for the resumption of

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Cricket Tests between our two countries. You had kindly invited the journalists who accompanied me to Pakistan to stay on and see your country and I hope you will agree that they gave a very friendly and objective account of their experiences. We are happy that your journalists have come here in their turn. We welcome them and hope that they too will find their visit rewarding.

These steps, though small, illustrate the fact that a fresh wind of understanding has begun to blow over this sub-continent. We hope that this wind will clear away the mist of misunderstandings created by the past, and bring into being a wholesome climate of trust and cooperation, between countries to whom history and geography have bequeathed an interlinked destiny.

NEW CLIMATE

In this new climate, we have already moved some way to rediscover the logic of economic cooperation in a spirit which is of advantage to both countries. We shall be resuming official discussions on the Salal Hydro-electric Project where they were concluded in Islamabad and we hope to finalise an agreement. Our commercial relations have improved and we are glad to find that the trade is moving in both directions. We hope, when the review of our trade takes

place in Islamabad in the first week of May, both countries will build upon the existing basis so that to mutual advantage, the commerce between our two countries can reach a higher level.

During my visit to Pakistan, I had stated that at the present stage of our bilateral relations, it was important that we do no allow a narrow view of obstacles to mar our vision. Nor can either of us afford to follow a policy of scoring points over the other.

We, in India, have maintained our policy of strict non-interference in Pakistan's internal affairs. I was happy to find that this has been appreciated by your leaders and people. Given the political and social set up in this country, and the fact that what happens in your country cannot but affect our public opinion, I am sure you also appreciate that it is not always an easy task. As a Government, however, we will continue our commitment both to non-interference and to the objective of seeking normal, harmonious and better relations with Pakistan on the basis of equality.

As General Zia-ul-Haq said to me, one of the key problems affecting relations between us is the legacy of mistrust, misunderstanding, misconceptions about each other's affairs and intentions, left to us by our troubled past. It is necessary for both our Governments constantly to seek, in small ways, if necessary, until it is possible in bigger ways to enable our peoples to know and, understand each other better and to act for our respective and common good. It is only by ridding ourselves of this negative legacy that we can solve our problems in spirit of statesmanship and develop a more fruitful future.

We earnestly hope that the process of dialogue which we both have initiated, would continue. I am not so naive as to believe that all our problems can be resolved to our mutual satisfaction in the course of such visits. But, the trend we have set in augurs well for our sub-continent.

In conclusion, I would like to request all of you to join me in drinking a toast to

the health of -

His Excellency Mr. Fazal Elahi Chaudhry, President of Pakistan

His Excellency General Zia-ul-Haq, Chief Martial Law Administrator and Head of Government of Pakistan,

to my distinguished friend His Excellency Mr. Agha Shahi

to the happiness and prosperity of the people of Pakistan and

to the strengthening of good neighbourly relations between India and Pakistan.

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PAKISTAN INDIA USA MALI UNITED KINGDOM PERU

Date: Apr 01, 1978

Volume No

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PAKISTAN

Shri Vajpayee's Statement in Lok Sabha on Salal Hydro Electric Project

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on April 14, 1978 when the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, made a statement in Lok Sabha:

The House will recall that the Indus Waters Treaty 1960 provided for exclusive use of three eastern rivers (Sutlej, Ravi and Beas) to India while Pakistan was allowed the exclusive use of waters of the three western rivers (Chenab, Jhelum and Indus). Exclusive use meant that except for some limited uses for domestic and agricultural purposes, the waters of the western rivers

could not be utilised except for non-consumptive purposes such as the generation of hydroelectric power. However, under the Treaty, Pakistan, as a lower riparian, was entitled to study the design and raise objections on the grounds that the design did not, in their opinion, conform to the criteria laid down in the Treaty.

The Salal Hydro-electric Project on the Chenab in the state of Jammu and Kashmir was planned by the Central Water and Power Commission which, when completed, will generate 345 megawatts of power and provide significant increase in the availability of power for the State of Jammu and Kashmir and other States of the Northern Region. The designs were first sent to the Pakistan Commissioner for Indus Waters in 1970. Pakistan raised various objections to the design and urged in brief that the design was not in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty. It was also suggested that it would give India the capacity to manipulate the flows of the river which may cause harm to Pakistan. As a consequence, discussions had been going on in the Permanent Indus Commission since 1974 and were continued at the Foreign Secretary's level since 1975.

These discussions did not resolve, the difference, and as a result, at one stage, it was being discussed that the question might be referred, under the provisions of the Treaty, to a neutral expert. However, following the agreement for the restoration of diplomatic relations and the other severed links and in keeping with the understanding reach-(A in the Simla Agreement of 1972, we took the initiative to invite Pakistan to resume bilateral negotiations to resolve this problem. Pakistan agreed to the suggestion and two rounds of discussions were held at the Foreign Secretaries level in October 1976 at New Delhi and Islamabad. These negotiations succeeded in narrowing the differences and a broad understanding was reached on the points at issue pertaining to the design. However no agreement could be finalised.

VISIT TO ISLAMABAD

When I went to Islamabad in February this year, the Pakistan Government indicated their willingness to resume the negotiations on the Salal Plant. I am glad to report to the House that as a result of the present discussions it has been possible to reach and sign an agreement on the design of the Salal Hydro Electric Plant today. In terms of this Agreement, the height of the spillway gates shall be 30 feet and all the sluices shall be closed within one year of the date of first filling of the reservoir up to the full pondage level or within three years of the date of the first filling of the reservoir up to the crest of the spillway, whichever is earlier. Adequate provision has been made to meet any unforeseen emergency if the safety of the plant might be endangered. in essential respects, the specifications of the design are the same as were informally agreed in Islamabad in October 1976.

Thus, an important and most difficult problem which has been bedevilling relations between the two countries has been resolved to the satisfaction of both the countries

The discussions were held in an atmosphere of understanding and cordiality which reflected a desire to foster friendly and goodneighbourly relations on the basis of sovereign equality and mutual benefit in order to usher in an era of cooperation and confidence between the two countries.

INHERITED OBLIGATIONS

The Agreement once again demonstrates that the Janata Government respects inherit-

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ed obligations and seeks to build with greater vigour cooperative relations with our immediate neighbours. We hope this Agreement will be a significant step to consolidate and to reinforce these policies and to make our subcontinent an area of stability and thus enable the nations of the region to optimise their natural resources and spur their development and promote the well being of the peoples in the countries of the region.

Date: Apr 01, 1978

Volume No

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PAKISTAN

Agreement on Salal Hydro-Electric Plant

The following is the agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan regarding the design of the Salal Hydro-electric Plant of the river Chenab Main. signed in New Delhi on April 14, 1978 by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs, for the Government of India and Mr. Agha Shahi, Adviser to the Foreign Affairs for the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan,

Being desirous of promoting and strengthening friendly relations between them on the basis of sovereignty, equality and mutual benefit,

Taking into consideration the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty, 1960, to which both the Governments are parties,

Having discussed, the differences that had airsen between the two Governments regarding the design of the Salal Hydroelectric Plant on Chenab Main, and

Without prejudice to the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty, 1960 (hereinafter referred to as the Treaty) or to the rights and obligations of the parties thereunder,

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

The Salient features of the Salal Hydro-electric Plant shall conform to the following:

i) LOCATION: At Salal,

Longtitude: 74 degrees 50' East Latitude: 33 degrees 08' North

- ii) FULL PONDAGE LEVEL: Not higher than EL 1600 feet.
- iii) DEAD STORAGE LEVEL: Same as the Full Pondage Level.
- iv) OPERATING POOL: Nil.
- v) DEAD STORAGE CAPACITY: Not exceeding 230, 303 acre feet.
- vi) IMMOVABLE CREST LEVEL OF THE SPILL-WAY: Not more than 30 feet below the full Pondage Level.
- vii) SPILLWAY GATES: 12 numbers, 50 feet wide and 30 feet high. The design shall provide for water to spill over the top of the spillway gates if the gates are not opened in time.
- viii) LEVEL OF POWER INTAKES: The centreline of the penstocks at the intake to be not lower than 27.5 feet below the full Pondage Level.
- ix) OUTLET WORKS: Six numbers with cill level not below EL 1365 feet. These shall be permanently closed with concrete plugs within one year of the date of the first filling of the reservoir upto the Full Pondage Level or within three years of the date of the first filling of the reservoir upto the crest of the spillway, whichever is earlier.

The Dead storage shall not be depleted

except in an unforeseen emergency endangering the safety of the earth or the concrete dams. In that event, India shall give immediate information to the Government of Pakistan of the nature of the emergency and may simultaneously undertake such action as may be necessary.

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In case the removal of concrete plugs becomes necessary, India shall hold immediate consultations with the representatives of the Pakistan Government including site inspection of the plant.

ARTICLE 2

India shall not make any further alterations in the features of the design of the Plant specified in Article 1 above except by mutual agreement.

ARTICLE 3

Any question which arises between the Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement or the existence of any fact which, if established, might constitute a breach of this Agreement shall be dealt with under the provisions of Article IX of the Treaty.

ARTICLE 4

Matters not expressely provided for in this Agreement shall be governed by the provisions of the Treaty.

ARTICLE 5

The terms used in this Agreement shall have the same meanings as in the Treaty.

ARTICLE 6

This Agreement shall come into force upon signature.

Done in duplicate in the Hindi, Urdu and English languages at New Delhi on this Fourteenth day of April 1978. All the texts will be equally authentic; however, in case

of doubt, the English text shall prevail.

PAKISTAN INDIA USA

Date: Apr 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Text of Shri Vajpayee's Speech at Dinner in Honour of H.E. Mr. Hameed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on April 4, 1978 when the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, held a dinner in honour of His Excellency Mr. A. C. S. Hameed, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Sri Lanka, in New Delhi. Proposing a toast, Shri Vajpayee said:

It is a great pleasure for me and indeed a privilege to welcome Your Excellency to India on your first official visit as the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka.

As I welcome you, the panorama of a long and unending procession of men and ideas, stretching back to the time where history and mythology meet, flashes across my mind. I am reminded of the landing of Vijaya and his companions on the shores of your fragrant Island. I am reminded of the Mission of Mahendra and his sister Sanghamitra sent by Ashoka, one of the noblest of rulers that mankind has seen, I am also reminded of Gautama the Buddha Whose path of wisdom and whose message of peace and compassion has so deeply influenced both of us and indeed all mankind. Through this constant exchange, we have come to share not only common cultural traditions, but an aesthetic approach and way of life, to such a degree, that uninformed foreigners often fail to distinguish between a son of India

and a son of Sri Lanka. What is more important is to recall the debt of gratitude that we owe in modern times to two great sons of Sri Lanka - Anagarika Dharampala and Ananda Coomaraswamy, who helped us to discover ourselves and to interpret the art and philosophy of India to the world at large. Even our subjugation by common imperialism, I would frankly admit, has served to bring us still closer, as from that historic experience, we have both inherited similarities in our political process and in our administrative system. And in struggling to

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throw off the yoke of imperialism, our independence movements drew nourishment and inspiration from each other. If Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru visited Sri Lanka, many of your leaders came to India. for exchange of views on the strategy and tactics of liberation. I recall that President Jayawardene was present at the historic Congress Session at Ramgarh.

COMMON COMMITMENTS

Excellency, it should not therefore cause any surprise if Sri Lanka and India share common commitments and aspirations and adopt a common approach to world problems. The year 1977 is a landmark in the history of both India and Sri Lanka. There were many similarities in the way the people of the two countries asserted their right to choose their representatives. They rejected the party in power and entrusted the business of government to the Opposition, with a fresh mandate to take the nation forward to new frontiers of freedom and progress. Neither the UNP Government in Sri Lanka nor the Janata Government in India has been voted to office on promise of miracles. But on reading their electoral manifestos, one is struck by the similarity in their approach to the problems of nation-building in the priority they both give to the development of self-sustaining agriculture, to the creation of integrated rural communities, to employment-oriented industrialisation, to bringing the gap between the village and the town, to the spread of the gains of development to all corners and all sections of our peoples and

to national integration.

We want our peoples to be free from fear and from want. In India, we have lifted the pall of fear which hung low on the land and now we must move forward to abolish want. In this, both our countries face gigantic challenges. No doubt, each country has to determine its own strategy for development and work out its own priorities. But in injecting a new dynamism in our national effort, it is natural that we feel close to each other and share our experiences. As immediate neighbours, we have indeed legitimate interest in each other's welfare; this should lead to mutual cooperation and a continuous search for new avenues, new levels and new forms of such cooperation. It is indeed in this context that I took forward to my discussions with you during your current visit.

NON-ALIGNED GROUP

Excellency, as the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Group, Sri Lanka, under the guidance of President Jayewardene and under your stewardship as the Foreign Minister, bears a special responsibility for transforming the international order, in democratising international relations, in crystallising the strategy that the South must adopt for its dialogue with the North for producing fruitful results, in promoting disarmament and thus making the world safe for development, in eliminating the last vestiges of colonialism and racism that stain mankind in mobilising the forces of peace so that international tensions can be relaxed. Since the Non-Aligned Summit in. Colombo, Sri Lanka has made an immensely valuable contribution in voicing the common urges and aspirations of the vast majority of the human race. We have had the privilege of working closely with you and we look forward to our continued cooperation on this vital front.

FOUNDATIONS OF PEACE

Excellency, I believe that each of us has to make a beginning to lay the foundations of peace, in his own neighbourhood, without losing sight of world problems. This

is why we have taken concrete steps and positive initiatives, on the basis of sharing of sacrifices, to create a climate of peace in, South Asia. To a point, we have succeeded in giving new momentum to the process of reconciliation, which should in time make South Asia truly a zone of peace and friendship, a re-ion free from conflict or confrontation and more than that, an area of friendly and good neighbourly cooperation.

This vision, I know, Excellency, is shared by you and your Government. But we have to re-double our efforts to dissipate the suspicions of yesterday and to build for tomorrow, new ties of confidence and trust. From bilateral cooperation, we can move to regional cooperation, an idea eloquently expressed by Your Excellency on a number of occasions since your assumption of office. If it was the vision of President Jayewardene which brought Colombo Plan into existence, we can rightfully look to you and to your country, Excellency, for providing initiative so that, in not too distant a future, the coun-

tries of South Asia could sit together and explore ideas of meaningful regional cooperation. We have to respond to the logic of geography and economics. Indeed, if world trends are an indication - isolation is no longer possible and rationalism and regional cooperation can grow together.

Excellency, washed by the same waters and enriched by the same mainsprings of culture and civilisation, Sri Lanka and India can conceive of no possible relationship except one of friendship and good neighbour-liness, based on mutual respect for each other's national identity and national interests. This is the only way we can fulfil the aspirations of our people and meet their legitimate expectations.

Your visit is brief and we may not be able to show you all that we would like to, but I hope you will come again and give the people in various parts of India an opportunity to express their regard and goodwill for your country and your people.

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I now re-

quest you to join me in a toast to the health of President J. R. Jayewardene, to the health of Prime Minister Preodasa, to the health of H.E. Mr. A. C. S. Hameed, Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, to the happiness, prosperity and well being of the people of Sri Lanka, and to the everlasting friendship between Sri Lanka and India.

SRI LANKA INDIA USA PERU

Date: Apr 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

SWITZERLAND

Loans of Rs. 34 Crores Converted into Grants

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on April 19, 1978:

Switzerland has converted a total amount of over SF.75 million (Rs. 34 crores) given to India in 1966 and 1973, into grants. Letters to this effect were exchanged in New Delhi on April 19, 1978 between Dr. Man Mohan Singh, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance and H.E. Mr. Etienne Suter, Ambassador of Switzerland in India.

The agreement gives effect to the decision of the Government of Switzerland to write off the outstanding liability arising from two transfer credits extended by Switzerland in 1966 and 1973 and converted into grants the entire amount of Swiss Development Loan extended in 1973. Accordingly, an amount of SF.40.42 million (Rs. 18.28 crores) representing the disbursed amount of the Governmental Segment of two Swiss Transfer Credits as on June 30, 1977 stands written off. In addition, the entire amount of SF.35 million (Rs. 15.83 crores) under

the Swiss Development Loan, 1973 will be treated as grant.

Switzerland has been extending development aid to India since 1960. Besides grants amounting to over Swiss Francs 100 million for technical assistance programmes and relief activities, the total financial aid given so far has been of the order of Swiss Francs 300 million (Rs. 135.74 crores) through four Loans comprising 3 Transfer Credits and one Development Loan. The first Transfer Credit was exclusively from a Swiss Banking Consortium; the 2nd and the 3rd Transfer Credits came 50 per cent from the Banking Consortium and 50 per cent from the Government. While the Governmental Segment has been on concessional terms, the Bank Segment has been on commercial terms. These credits were tied to the import of capital goods of Swiss origin. All three Transfer Credits have been contracted in full. The Development Loan is, however, on near I.D.A. terms and is intended to meet the foreign exchange requirements of the Obra-Sultanpur-Lucknow and Obra-Muradnagar Transmission Schemes of U.P. State Electricity Board.

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SWITZERLAND INDIA USA

Date: Apr 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

SYRIA

President Reddy's Speech at Banquet for Syrian President

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on April 18, 1978 of the speech by the President of India Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy at a banquet in

honour of the Syrian Arab Republic President, H.E. Mr. Hafez Al-Assad:

It gives me genuine pleasure to welcome this evening His Excellency President Assad, Mrs. Assad and the other distinguished members of his party. Our two peoples are no strangers and can well be proud of the history of friendship and cooperation which has characterised our relations over the centuries. We have watched with admiration vour successful efforts to win national independence in the days of imperialism and to rebuild the sinews of your economy, not only in agriculture but also in the industrial field. This quest for social and economic development which must be common to all the developing non-aligned countries is not an easy one.

We are particularly conscious of the courage and determination you have shown as the leader of a frontline Arab State. Our principled support to the Arab cause is well known to you. We reaffirm our total support for the implementation of the relevant U.N. Resolutions, which call for the withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab lands and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. We are convinced of the imperative need for strengthening Arab unity and the efforts of the non-aligned countries for achieving this objective.

ISRAELI VIOLATIONS

The Government of India strongly deplores the latest violation by Israel of Lebanese sovereignty. This massive and ruthless military action by Israel can by no means be justified on the plea that it is intended to safeguard Israel's security. The world community cannot but view this development with great seriousness and condemn it in strong terms. Apart from resulting in the loss of many innocent lives, such an action increases the danger of a wider conflagration and seriously jeopardises efforts towards a peaceful and negotiated settlement.

The fight against imperialism and colonialism are part of the common stand of the non-aligned countries which seek not only

to eliminate the remaining vestiges of these evils, but also to persuade the international community, of the danger to world peace of the immense affluence enjoyed by a few, as against the abject poverty and misery of the many. This is the basis of our demand for a New International Economic Order which alone can usher in a just and more equitable relationship within the world community.

In the countries of Southern Africa, minority regimes have not only denied the majority their legitimate rights, but also subjected the people of the countries to great persecution and suffering. We resolutely continue to hold that the right of self-determination and majority rule cannot be denied to the people of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa.

U.N. DISARMAMENT SESSION

We hope that the forthcoming U.N. Special Session devoted to disarmament will succeed in focussing the attention of the world to the dangers involved in the enormous and wasteful expenditure on weapons of destruction and the immense benefits which will accrue to mankind as a whole, if only swords can be converted into plough shares.

I am happy that the exchange of visits from our two countries in recent months have opened up new and promising avenues of mutual cooperation.

We in India are proud of the peaceful and orderly change of Government last March and are resolved on a reorientation of our economic and social planning, programmes and policies. We also note with great satisfaction, Your Excellency, that under your wise stewardship, Syria has similarly embarked upon an extensive pro-

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gramme of economic and social development The recent visit to your country in October of our Minister of Industry enabled us to take stock of the state of Indo-Syrian cooperation and helped to identify many new avenues of mutually beneficial cooperation. The signing of the Indo-Syrian Protocol on economic cooperation followed by the visit to India of your Minister of Industries in February provided a further opportunity for follow-up action. We are confident that your present visit will provide the necessary impetus to consolidate our relations in political, economic, cultural, scientific and educational fields. Speedy follow-up action on both sides in this regard will, I am confident, raise Indo-Syrian cooperation in the economic, industrial, scientific and technological fields to the level of the excellent political relations which exist so happily between our two countries.

Excellencies, ladies and friends, may I now request you to join me in raising your glasses in a toast for the health and happiness of His Excellency President Hafez Al-Assad and Mrs. Assad, to the progress and prosperity of the great Syrian people and to the further strengthening of the eternal bonds of friendship which bind India and Syria together.

SYRIA INDIA USA ISRAEL NAMIBIA ZIMBABWE SOUTH AFRICA

Date: Apr 01, 1978

Volume No 1995 SYRIA Reply by the Syrian President

Replying to the toast, H.E. Mr. Assad said:

Mr. President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, Mrs. Reddy, Mr. Morarji Desai, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are extremely happy to visit your great country. The cordial reception we have had since our arrival in India has given us a feeling of the warmth of the friendship existing between our two countries.

I wish to express, in the name of my wife, in my own name and in the name of members of the Syrian Arab delegation, sincere thanks to President Reddy and to Mrs. Reddy for the kind invitation which has given us the opportunity to pay our present visit to India. I also thank Mr. Reddy for the words of warm welcome which we have just heard. We have come to India prompted by a sure determination to strengthen bonds of friendship between our two countries and an eager desire to meet with the President of India, the Prime Minister and members of the Indian Government and the friendly Indian people. Also to see at first hand whatever the time of our visit would permit of the monuments of your country, the manifestation of its modern progress, the rich heritage of its ancient civilisation and the plurality of structure and fields of life for which it distinguished. The civilisation and historical heritage of India during a period of over three thousand years is certainly an object of pride for the Indian people and of appreciation and admiration for the other peoples of the world.

Through its long history, our country, Syria has known what India has known of the intermingling of civilisations which has enriched humanity and provided many of the bases of knowledge.

HISTORICAL CONTACTS

Throughout your history and our history, there have been contacts between our two peoples as well as exchanges in many fields. Our people came to know the products of India and became acquainted with Indian culture and literature. This exchange between us produced profound affects in the two regions.

The struggles for independence in Syria and India were undertaken at the same time. We used to follow with feelings of sympathy and support India's struggle for independence. We followed with due respect the stands adopted by Mahatma Gandhi, the father of that struggle in whose person, teaching and leadership the noble ideals of humanity were enshrined.

Through a long and ardous struggle, Syria and India achieved independence on two dates separated by a short interval no more than one year and a few months. in-

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dependence gave the opportunity to become better acquainted and to strengthen our mutual relations.

Our belonging to the continent of Asia, our common struggle within the framework of Arab-Asian solidarity which later developed into Afro-Asian solidarity and our activities with the group of nonaligned nations, all this makes our two countries move along the same path in the field of foreign policy and play the role incumbent upon us within the struggle of the peoples of the world to achieve a better world, a world dominated by justice, equality and peace and free of all forms of colonialism, racism, exploitation and aggression.

Mutual desire and the existence of a real possibility to develop bilateral relations have produced a common effort to develop and enlarge the scope of relations between Syria and India to the benefit of the Syrian Arab people and the Indian people.

During the past few years visits by responsible officials of the two countries have been undertaken to probe enlarging fields of cooperation. We are confident that our present visit and the talks we are going to have during this visit will achieve the objective of strengthening friendship and cooperation between our two countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in the name of the Syrian Arab people and in my own name I express due thanks and appreciation for the support given by the people and Government of India to the struggle against aggression which we have been fighting for thirty years. The origin of this aggression lay in the schemes of the imperialist powers in our region and in motives of domination and exploitation. These motives were behind the encouragement and support given to the racist Zionist movement in its conquest of the land of Palestine and the dispersal and uprooting of its people as well as behind providing this movement, after it assumed the form of the state of Israel, with all forms of military, economic and political aid, which helped it to continue its aggression and expansion at the expense of the Arab countries.

As you can see now, the greed of Israel for expansion has no limit, considering that the aid which it receives from the imperialist forces enables it not only to refuse to withdraw from the Arab territories it occupies through aggression, but also to occupy new areas. Thus, a few weeks ago, the Israelis committed an aggression against the independent and sovereign state of Lebanon, which is a member of the United Nations, and occupied an area of land in South Lebanon. They did this in definance of the world community and in violation of principles of the U.N. Charter and international law.

Israel tried to use as pretext and justification for this aggression a commando operation staged near Tel Aviv. But the Palestinian commandos who carried out the Tel Aviv operation did not go to Tel Aviv from the land which Israel occupied in the course of its aggression against South Lebanon. Moreover, this occupation cannot prevent the commandos from carrying out other operations against the Isareli forces, both in South Lebanon and in occupied Palestine.

PEOPLE OF PALESTINE

The people of Palestine have rights which Israel denies. Israel has even denied the very existence of this people after it had uprooted it from its homeland through brutal massacres, many of which were carried out by the present Prime Minister of Israel personally. As a result of these masacres at Deir Yassin, Kafr Kassem, Kibya, Nahaleen and other places innocent children, women, old men and young people were slaughtered with no cause or justification.

It is natural that the people of Palestine cannot forget their homeland and their rights to that homeland. All laws give this people the right to oppose those who usurped their land and their rights. The world has recognised these rights but Israel continues to defy the world community and persists in obstructing all serious efforts made to achieve a just peace in our region.

Syria has sincerely exerted all possible efforts to achieve a just peace, but this peace cannot be achieved so long as Arab territories continue to be occupied and the rights of the people of Palestine continue to be usurped and ignored. In the face of Israel's persistence to pursue expansion, we cannot but oppose this expansion with all the power we have in solidarity with our Arab brothers and with the support of our friends throughout the world.

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When we foght Israel in October 1973, our objective was to liberate our occupied land and to enable the people of Palestine to regain their rights. During the fierce battles of the October War, we sincerely called for the achievement of a just peace based on the withdrawal of Israel from all the Arab territories it occupied in 1967 and the safeguarding of the rights of the Arab people of Palestine. We believe in the justice of our cause and our stand. We are sure that all peoples that love freedom and favour a peace based on justice are on our side and support our Struggle.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, with the greetings of the Syrian Arab People I convey to you the sincere desire of our people to promote friendship and cooperation between our two countries as well as best wishes for the people of India.

I conclude my speech by extending greetings to Mr. Reddy and wishing him and Mrs. Reddy all health and happiness. I also extend greetings to Mr. Morarji Desai and wish him all health and happiness. I greet the people of India and wish them success, progress and prosperity.

May friendship between Arab Syria and India be strengthened and enhanced.

SYRIA INDIA USA ISRAEL LEBANON CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Apr 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

SYRIA

Trade Agreement Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on April 20, 1978:

India and Syria signed in New Delhi on April 20, 1978 a Trade Agreement which replaces the earlier Trade Agreement signed between the two countries on October 9, 1969.

The Agreement was signed by Shri Mohan Dharia, the Union Minister of Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation and by Mr. Mohammad Al-Imady, Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade on behalf of their respective Governments.

Under the Agreement both Governments have agreed to expand the volume of Trade between the two countries by facilitating the supply to each other of goods and services produced by them that are mutually advantageous to them. Two separate lists showing items available for export and import by the two countries have also been indicated. Among the items available for export from India to Syria are: tea, coffee, spices, rubber and leather manufactures, all types of textiles and clothing, jute products, chemicals and allied products, medical and pharmaceutical products, plastic products, iron and steel, industrial plant and machinery and all other types of engineering goods and other items. Among the items available for

export from Syria to India include rock phosphate, phosphatic fertilizer, lentils and other pulses, petroleum, petroleum products, cotton, cement, spirits, vegetable oil seeds and oil and others.

Both countries have agreed to grant each other reciprocally no less favourable treatment in the trade relations between the two countries than that applying to any country particularly as regards customs duties, charges of any kind and regulations governing the import and export of goods/commodities.

Under the Agreement, the two countries have undertaken to cooperate for mutual benefit with a view to strength economic relations between the two countries, and to furthering the interchange and use of scientific and technical knowledge particularly by affording opportunities for technical training and assistance wherever possible. They have also agreed to explore possibilities for the establishment of joint ventures for their mutual benefit.

PAYMENTS

All payments relating to trade between the two countries shall be effected in freely convertible currencies acceptable to both Governments in accordance with the foreign exchange regulations in force in the two countries. Subject to its respective laws and regulations, both India and Syria have agreed to allow the holding of permanent or tem-

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porary fairs, exhibitions and trade centres by the other and shall extend to the other contracting Party all facilities for holding such fairs, exhibitions and trade centres. It was also agreed that nationals of either country shall be permitted to enter, sojourn, travel or reside in the territory of the other country for the purpose of promoting trade between the two countries, provided that the enjoyment of the above right shall be subject to the laws and regulations of such other party as are generally applicable to all foreigners alike.

In order to faciliate the implementation of this Agreement and to further expand the trade relations between the two countries, India and Syria have agreed on setting up a Committee composed of representatives of the two countries to be designated by the respective Governments. The Committee shall meet upon request of either country in New Delhi and Damascus alternately. Within the purview of this Agreement, the Committee shall, inter-alia review and keep under consideration the implementation of the provisions of this Agreement; examine measures for the solution of problems which may arise in the implementation of this Agreement or in the course of trade between the two countries and consider proposals made by either country within the framework of this Agreement, aimed at progressive expansion, improve balance and diversification of trade between the two countries and projecting the levels of the anticipated trade for the ensuing year.

This Agreement shall come into force upon exchange of notes between the two Governments concerning their approval in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements and shall remain in force for a period of one year. Thereafter, it shall be automatically renewed for further periods of one year at a time, unless either Contracting Party notifies the other, in writing, of its intention to terminate the Agreement, ninety days prior to the expiry of any of the aforesaid periods of validity of the Agreement.

SYRIA INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date: Apr 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

SYRIA

Joint Communique

The following is the text of the Indo-Syrian joint communique:

At the invitation of the President of India, Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, His Excellency Mr. Hafez Al-Assad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic, accompanied by Madam Assad, paid a State visit to India from April 18 to 22, 1978.

The President of the Syrian Arab Republic and Madam Assad and the accompanying delegation were accorded a very warm and cordial welcome by the Government and the people of India. During his stay in Delhi, the President of the Syrian Arab Republic paid homage to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi by laying a wreath at Raighat. The Major and the citizens of Delhi held a civic reception in honour of President Assad and other visiting dignitaries at the historic Red Fort. The fraternal welcome extended to the distinguished visitors was a manifestation of the traditional ties which bind the two countries as well as the keen desire of the two Governments and peoples to enrich and deepen their cooperation in all fields.

The Syrian side comprised: H.E. Mr. Abdel Halim Khaddam, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister; H.E. Dr. Shaker Al Fahham, Minister of Higher Education; H.E. Dr. Mohammad Al-Imady, Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade; H.E. Dr. Adib Daoudy, President's Political Adviser; H.E. Mr. Abdallah Fikri El-Khany, Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic in India; H.E. Eng. Nader Nabulsi, Deputy Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources; H.E. Mr. Raslan Alloush, Ambassador, Department of Asia at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Dr. Bashar Kahbbara, the Economic Department of the Presidency.

The Indian side comprised: Shri Charan Singh, Minister of Home Affairs; Shri Jagjivan Ram, Minister of Defence; Shri Mohan Dharia, Minister of Commerce and Civil Supplies and Cooperation; Shri George Fernandes, Minister of Industry; Shri Purushottam Kaushak, Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation-, Shri Biju Patnaik, -Minister of Steel and Mines; Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs; Shri V. Shankar, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister; Shri J. S. Mehta, Foreign Secretary; Shri R. D. Thapar, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce; Shri S. S. Marathe, Secretary, Department of Industrial Development: Shri R. Bhandari, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs; Shri A. P. Venkateswaran, Ambassador of India to the Syrian Arab Republic; Shir R. N. Malhotra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs.

The President of the Syrian Arab Republic held detailed discussions with the Prime Minister of India, Shri Morarji Desai in a warm and cordial atmosphere of mutual friendship and understanding. These talks dealt with bilateral relations and various international problems, including developments in the respective regions to which they belong. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the development of their bilateral relations in the political, economic, commercial scientific, cultural and other fields and agreed to identify further areas of cooperation between them. They reaffirmed their determination to give these efforts a fresh impetus. The President of the Syrian Arab Republic also received the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation, Shri Mohan Dharia, Minister of Steel and Mines, Shri Biju Patnaik.

President Hafez Al-Assad informed Prime Minister Morarji Desai of the achievements of the Syrian Republic in various fields of development despite the difficult circumstances resulting from continued Israeli aggression which necessitated strengthening Syrian Defence capability and steadfastness. The President outlined Syria's activities and initiatives in Arab and international forums, particularly amongst the non-aligned, with a view to consolidating solidarity amongst the forces supporting peace and justice in the region and in the world, and in the struggle against colonialism, racism and Zionism.

The Prime Minister of India explained the initiatives taken during the last year for the further normalisation of relations among the countries of the sub-continent, reflecting India's deep desire to create a climate of understanding and cooperation in the region.

The two sides stressed the continuing validity of the policy of non-alignment. They expressed their satisfaction at the growing success and effectiveness of the movement specially since the Colombo Summit in 1976 and the Bureau meeting at Ministerial level held in New Delhi in April, 1977. It was their confident expectation that the forthcoming Bureau Meeting in Kabul would provide yet another valuable opportunity to review the situation and to consolidate the cooperation of the non-aligned countries in various fields. In this context, they emphasised the need to maintain the unity and cohesiveness of the movement so that it continues to play a dynamic and constructive role for promoting peace and stability in the world. They were happy to note the growing trend towards mutually beneficial technical and economic cooperation among nonaligned countries.

The two sides discussed the current situation in West Asia. The intransigence of Israel which continues to violate the U.N. Charter by persisting in its occupation of Arab territories and its refusal to implement U.N. resolutions was a matter of grave common concern to them. The situation had been further aggravated by the latest blatant aggression by Israel against the sovereignty of Lebanon which the two sides viewed with serious concern. The Israeli aggression has led to the loss of many innocent lives and increased the danger of a wider conflagration.

The two sides affirmed that a just and durable peace in West Asia can be achieved only on the basis of Israel's complete withdrawal form all Arab territories occupied by it since 1967 and the restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to return to their homes, to self-determination and the

establishment of an independent Palestinian State. The two sides fully recognised the representative role of the P.L.O. in achieving this objective.

The two leaders reaffirmed their support for achieving general and complete disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, under effective international control. Both sides stressed the need for immediate cessation of all nuclear weapons tests and progressive re-

195 duction of nuclear armaments with a view to their ultimate elimination.

The two sides were gratified to note that the forthcoming Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly devoted to Disarmament was the result of the non-aligned initiative emanating from the Colombo Summit.

The two sides expressed their grave concern at the critical situation obtaining in Southern Africa resulting from the policy of racial discrimination and apartheid being followed by racist minority regimes in that region. They pledged their total support to the peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa in their just struggle against the forces of racialism, colonialism and exploitation.

The two leaders lauded the heroic struggle of the people of Namibia, under the leadership of SWAPO against the illegal occupation of their country by the racist regime of South Africa. They expressed their hope that the forthcoming Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly on Namibia would result in a time bound programme to achieve the full independence of Namibia without compromising its territorial integrity.

The two sides emphasised the urgent need for speedy establishment of a new international economic order based on interdependence, equality and justice.

The two leaders discussed the situation in the Indian Ocean region and reaffirmed their support for measures to ensure that it truly becomes a zone of peace, free from tension and rivalry.

The President of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Prime Minister of India reiterated their determination to forge closer links between the two countries. They noted with satisfaction that a number of agreements in the economic, scientific, technical and cultural fields had been concluded in recent months. The plans for economic development of the two countries provided an excellent opportunity for their implementation particularly in various fields such as mining of phosphate, development of railways, textile industry, consultancy services and technical assistance, construction of industrial estates, housing complexes, industrial joint ventures and joint marketing of industrial and other products.

The two leaders were present at the signing of the Indo-Syrian Agreement on Trade on April 20, 1978.

The Government of India agreed to assist in providing professional and technical expertise according to the requirements of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in which regard a beginning has been made by the provision of medical experts to Syria.

Both sides stressed the importance of maintaining regular contacts and exchanges of visits at various levels between the two countries.

The President of the Syrian Arab Republic expressed his appreciation and thanks for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to him, Madam Assad and members of their party by the Government and the people of India. The President of the Syrian Arab Republic extended cordial invitations to the President of India and the Prime Minister of India to visit the Syrian Arab Republic at a mutually convenient time. The invitations were accepted with pleasure.

SYRIA INDIA USA ISRAEL MALI PERU SRI LANKA AFGHANISTAN LEBANON NAMIBIA ZIMBABWE SOUTH AFRICA

Date: Apr 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

TANZANIA

Shri Jatti Hosts Dinner for H.E. Mr. Jumbe

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on April 3, 1978 when the Vice-President, Shri B. D. Jatti, held a dinner in honour of H.E. Mr. Aboud Jumbe, Vice-President of the United Republic of Tanzania. Proposing the toast, Shri Jatti said:

Your Excellency, Mr. Aboud Jumbe, Mrs. Jumbe, Excellencies, Friends, Ladies

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and Gentlemen, It gives me great pleasure, Mr. Vice President. to extend to you, to Madam Jumbe, and to your eminent colleagues, a cordial and. affectionate welcome on behalf of the Government and people of India and on my own behalf. I recall with great pleasure the gracious hospitality which I enjoyed when I visited your great country in 1975. The exchange of views we then had are still fresh in my memory as are the impressions of your previous visit to India in April last year.

GREAT CHANGES

Great changes have taken place in the last two years in Tanzania, in India and around us. You in Tanzania have taken an important step by bringing about integration of T.A.N.U. and A.S.P. into Chamacha Mapinduzi (Revolutionary Party of Tanzania. A year ago, we in India had peaceful and democratic elections which resulted in the Janata Party forming a new government which has brought about significant improve-

ments in the economic and social life of the Indian people.

In July 1977, our Foreign Minister had visited your country when the Joint Commission agreed upon an expanded programme of cooperation in economic and technical fields. Indo-Tanzanian Cooperation has rapidly expanded and we are happy to learn that our modest efforts in sharing our expertise and experience have been appreciated by Tanzania. We are firmly convinced that it is through such cooperation that unity of Non-aligned movement can be maintained, and prosperity of poorer countries of the globe ensured.

URGENT PROBLEM

The most urgent problem facing our two nations today is the abolition of poverty. We firmly believe that when people themselves are involved in the process of national reconstruction, industrialisation and development of science and technology, removal of economic disparities are more easily achieved. We are, therefore, laying emphasis on increasing employment opportunities and rural reconstruction.

Great leaders of Tanzanai, specially His Excellency Mwalimu Julius Nyerere and your own self have been engaged in the restructuring of ancient societies in Tanzania so as to mould them gently to the demands of the modern age and yet preserve the quintessence of all old and beneficent values of simplicity, togetherness and harmony with nature. Your Excellency, your personality itself reflects this spirit as you combine the scientific temper of the modern age Q believe that you, in fact, taught science in Zanzibar), with the sagacity of an old life style.

We in India are proud and happy to be associated with the development process in Tanzania. We firmly believe in the principle of collective self-reliance as espoused by the Non-aligned movement. We have collaborated with each other in the quest for a New International Economic Order. We are linked by the Indian Ocean in whose maintenance as a Zone of Peace we are both vitally

interested. We further hope that our two countries together with other Indian Ocean countries situated in its South-Western Zone, will be able to establish meaningful functional cooperation in economic, scientific and technological fields which will be in the interests of the people inhabiting this region. Your visit to India will further bring us closer not only through bilateral cooperation but through cooperation in these and other fields in the international arena.

FRONTLINE STATES

Tanzania as Chairman of the Frontline States played a vital role in the on-going struggle for the removal of the last vestiges of colonialism and the uprooting of recalcitrant and rampant racialism in Southern Africa. We understand and deeply appreciate the contribution which Tanzania and other Frontline States have made and the sacrifices which they are undergoing as a result of the struggle going on there for human dignity, racial equality, equal rights and freedom. It was in South Africa that the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, also first raised the banner of opposition to colonialism and racialism. The Government of India have consistently supported the national liberation struggles in Southern Africa and are committed to continue the support through moral, political, diplomatic and material means. We have been gravely concerned over the recent developments in Zimbabwe.

We are convinced that the illegal regime of Ian Smith must be removed. The Govern-

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ment of the United Kingdom should accept its juridical and historical responsibility for decolonisation of Southern Rhodesia. The people of Zimbabwe must be given a free choice to elect a government of their liking, and independence must be ushered within the shortest possible time. We had, therefore, supported the principles of universal adult suffrage and majority rule enunciated in the Anglo-U.S. proposals. We regard the so-called internal settlement arrived at by Ian Smith as illegal and unacceptable. It is es-

sential that the Patriotic Front, which has borne the brunt of liberation struggle for so long, must be associated fully with the transitional arrangements leading to independence in Zimbabwe. We are ready to support, as we have always done, the efforts of the Frontline States, the O.A.U. and others to help achieve independence and majority rule for Zimbabwe.

I should now like to propose a toast to the ever-growing friendship between India and Tanzania, to the dedicated leadership of Tanzania, to the health of President Nyerere, to the personal health of His Excellency Mr. Aboud Jumbe and Madam Jumbe, to the health of the members of his delegation and to the prosperity and welfare of the people of Tanzania.

TANZANIA INDIA USA SOUTH AFRICA ZIMBABWE

Date: Apr 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

TANZANIA

Reply by Mr. Jumbe

Replying to the toast, H.E. Mr. Jumbe said:

Your Excellency, Mr. Vice-President, Excellencies. Distinguished guests, I wish to express my own and my delegation's gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality that have become the hallwark of our visit to India. It is hardly a year since I was last here, and this is a measure of the ties binding our two countries. We appreciate the wealth of kindness that the Government and people of India have displayed since our arrival and we truly value the ever ripening friendship between us. I bring with me the

greetings of the President and People of Tanzania. From them come the best wishes for the happiness and prosperity of this great nation.

Without wishing to be smug about it, I am happy to note what India and Tanzania have accomplished in recent years. We have added to our historical ties a fairly wide spectrum of cooperation of which our Joint Economic Commission is an inspiring symbol. We are grateful for Indian assistance in a number of our projects, notably the Kagera Sugar Factory, the Songo Songo Gas Field, the Bicycle Company and the Small Scale Industries. Hundreds of Indian experts work in different capacities in our country and Indo-Tanzanian trade links have already been forged, But this may stir complacency and self-congratulation at a time when we must work for even stronger connections. Indeed we hope to utilize the present opportunity to discover further ways of strengthening our relations to our mutual benefit.

BASIC APPROACH

We are also happy to have identified a comman basic approach to the problems of our respective societies. National independence has posed for both of us the challenge of overcoming mass poverty, disease and ignorance. Each of us had also to weld our people, amidst so much cultural, ethnic and tribal diversity, into a truly united, progressive and dignified nation. To eliminate these ills and to build the society we envisage presuppose equal opportunities for all. In socialism and self-reliance we have both found an answer. We may differ on questions of detail and on the label we choose. Gandhian socialism and Ujamaa remain essentially the same philosophy. We sympathize with your efforts to grapple with the problems of inequality and exploitation, the very problems we are fighting in Tanzania, and we have time and again emphasized, the way you are doing, that man should be above all the focus of development. A policy of decentralization and villagization has been adopted by Tanzania in the bid for rural development, and this has its counterpart in India's development policy. Thus on the

home front we meet at vital points.

On the international level, we are happily at one on many important questions.

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We share the objectives of the U.N., the Comonwealth, the Non-aligned Movement and the Group of 77 as well as the commitment to the total liberation of Southern Africa.

INDIA'S SUPPORT TO SWAPO

As regards Namibia we are greatly heartened by the support that India has given to SWAPO's demand for the complete and unconditional withdrawal of all South African troops from the Namibian territory before that country attains independence. The observation at the U.N. General Assembly by a member of the Indian delegation about the impossibility of free and fair elections in the hostile presence of South African forces is very apt indeed.

Tanzania also fully appreciates India's anti-apartheid stance, her moral and material contribution towards the anti-apartheid struggle and her recognition of racism as an offshoot of colonialsm constituting, as such.. as much a violation of human rights as a threat to international peace and security. India deserves congratulations for her strong voice in the U.N., in the face of Western intransigence, on the issue of mandatory arms embargo on South Africa and economic sanctions against the Vorster regime.

Again India's support for the Anglo-American proposals on Zimbabwe is very much in the spirit of India's commitment to the whole Southern Africa question. The situation in Zimbabwe is not getting any simpler. Smith's so-called internal settlement with the Rhodesia based "nationalists" is only meant to entrench white minority interests. But whatever his subterfuge, Smith cannot change course of History which is certainly with the people of Zimbabwe. The Zimbabwean people and the rest of Africa have accepted the Anglo-American proposals

as a basis for the peaceful transfer of power to the black majority. There can be no talk of an "internal settlement" which excludes the Patriotic Front who are the people's true representatives recognised by the entire international community. In the final analysis this means the escalation of the armed struggle. Tanzania will provide to the armed struggle in Zimbabwe all the moral and material assistance it can. It is also our earnest hope that India will continue to give her full support to the struggle till colonialism crumbles once and for all.

It is in the light of all this that I now ask you ladies and gentlemen to take up your glasses and drink with me a toast to the health of the President and Mrs. Reddy, to the health of the Vice President and Mrs. Jatti, to the health of the Prime Minister Mr. Morarji Desai, to the Government and people of India, and to ever stronger Indo-Tanzanian links.

TANZANIA INDIA USA NAMIBIA SOUTH AFRICA ZIMBABWE

Date: Apr 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

TANZANIA

Joint Communique

The following is the text of the India-Tanzania Joint Communique:

At the invitation of His Excellency Shri Morarji Desai, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, His Excellency Mr. Aboud Jumbe, Vice-President of the United Republic of Tanzania, leading an official delegation, paid a fraternal visit to India from April 2 to 11, 1978. The delegation was received with traditional warmth and affection by the

Government and people of India.

During his stay in India, the Vice-President of the United Republic of Tanzania, called on the President, Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy, and Vice-President, Shri B. D. Jatti, and held official talks with Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai. He also received the Minister for External Affairs. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The Vice-President addressed the Indian Council of World Affairs and visited some industrial sites and places of cultural and scientific interests in Delhi, Chandigarh, Dehradun, Bangalore and Bombay.

In the official talks, the Tanzanian Vice-President was assisted by the following:
Mr. Ali Mzee Ali, Minister of State, Vice-President's office Member of Central Committee of CCM); Mr. C. D. Msuya, Minister of Industries; Mr. Ali Salim, Minister for Development Planning, Zanzibar (Member of Central Committee of CCM); Mr. Jackson Kaaya, Regional Chairman, CCM, Arusha

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Region; Mr. Hamis Darwesh, Member of the Revolutionary Council of Zanzibar (Member of Central Committee of CCM); Dr. (Mrs.) Msim Abdulrahman, Secretary-General of Women's Organisation of Tanzania, Member of the Central Committee of CCM; Professor Kigoma A. Malima, Member of the Central Committee on Chama Cha Mapinduzi (Revolutionary Party of Tanzania); Mr. M. A. Foum, Junior Minister for Foreign Affairs: Mr. Mohammed Faki, Junior Minister of Industries, Zanzibar; Mr. G. M. Nhigula, High Commissioner for Tanzania to India.

The Prime Minister of India was assisted by the following: Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister for External Affairs. Shri George Fernandes, Minister of Industry; Shri Mohan Dharia, Minister for Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation; Shri V. Shankar, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister; Shri Jagat Mehta, Foreign Secretary; Shri M. A. Vellodi, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs; Shri V. K. Ahuja, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs: Shri S. S. Marathe, Secretary, Ministry of Industrial Development: Shri R. D. Thapar, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce: Shri R. P. Naik. Secretary, Ministry of Tourism & Civil Aviation: Shri A. S. Gonsalves, Joint Secretary; Deptt. of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance: Shri K. K. Bhargava, Joint Secretary (Africa), Ministry of External Affairs.

These talks took place in an atmosphere of warm cordiality, and mutual understanding and in the spirit of close and friendly relations existing between the two countries. In the course of the discussions, they reviewed the international situation. particularly the recent developments in Southern Africa and the growing relations between Tanzania and India.

The Vice-President of Tanzania expressed appreciation of the concrete steps taken by the Government of India for creating conditions for durable peace and stability in the sub-continent and an atmosphere which is conducive to the establishment of functional and mutually beneficial cooperation among all the countries in the sub-continent. The Prime Minister of India outlined the steps taken by the Indian Government during the last one year in establishing and strengthening friendly and good neighbourly relations and cooperation with all her neighbours.

The two leaders expressed their grave concern at the critical situation obtaining in Zimbabwe. They noted that the illegal regime of Ian Smith has not yet been removed. They condemned the 'internal settlement' reached by him at Salisbury. The two leaders expressed full support for and solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe and the Patriotic Front which has been in the forefront of the liberation struggle.

They called upon the United Kingdom and the United States to reiterate their commitment to the Anglo-American proposals and convene in the shortest possible time a conference to follow up the Malta talks.

The two leaders also condemned the increasingly aggressive and hostile actions of

the illegal Smith regime against the neighbouring independent African States.

The two leaders called upon the international community to tighten and extend the UN sanctions against the illegal regime in Zimbabwe.

The two leaders reaffirmed their support to the heroic people of Namibia under the leadership of SWAPO in their valiant struggle for putting an end to the illegal occupation by the racist regime of South Africa. They noted the efforts undertaken by the Five Power Contact Group to bring about a negotiated settlement for a peaceful transition to majority rule and independence of Namibia in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations. They reaffirmed their commitment to the full independence and territorial integrity of Namibia.

The two leaders also expressed their deep concern over the explosive situation in South Africa arising out of the policy of apartheid and the persistent denial of basic human rights by the racist regime to the majority of the people. They condemned the repressive and anti-democratic measures unleashed by the South African regime against the people and called for effective implementation of sanctions against it, including complete embargo on arms, trade and investment

The two leaders expressed their concern at the situation in the Horn of Africa. They expressed the hope that the mediation efforts of the OAU within the framework of its Charter, would succeed in bringing about a

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durable political Solution leading to the establishment of peace in the region.

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 major maritime users to fully cooperate 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 two sides reiterated their whole-hearted support to the struggle of the Palestinian people for the restoration of their legitimate national rights, and felt that the international community must pay urgent attention to finding a just and durable solution of the problem in the interest of peace and justice.

The two leaders stressed the need for general and complete disarmament under international control and attach in this connection great importance to the forthcoming special session of the United Nations General Assembly on Disarmament. The two sides agreed about the need for the non-aligned nations to concert their positions and harmonise their approach on this question both at the Special Session and for follow-up action. They expressed the hope that discussions at the forthcoming meeting of the Non-aligned Bureau in Kabul in May and at the Non-aligned Conference in July at Belgrade would serve these objectives.

The two leaders reviewed the developments in bilateral relations between their two countries in various fields including trade, economy, education and culture, industry, science and technology. They expressed their satisfaction at the growth of these relations. They noted the progress made so far and emphasised the need for further steps to enlarge such cooperation for the success of mutually beneficial and dignified relations between the two countries. The two sides noted that such cooperation would contribute to the objective of collective self-reliance among developing countries as well as to that of the establishment of the New International Economic Order.

The Vice-President of the United Republic of Tanzania expressed his warm appreciation of the cordial and gracious welcome extended to him and to the members of his delegation by the Government and people of India. The Vice-President of Tanzania renewed his invitation to the Prime Minister of India to visit Tanzania. The Prime Minister thanked the Vice-President for this cor-

dial invitation and expressed the hope that he would be able to visit Tanzania in the near future.

TANZANIA INDIA USA MALI PERU ZIMBABWE MALTA NAMIBIA SOUTH AFRICA AFGHANISTAN YUGOSLAVIA

Date: Apr 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

UNICEF

New Agreement Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on April 5, 1978:

A revised Basic Agreement was concluded with UNICEF here today replacing the earlier Basic Agreement of May 10, 1949. Shri Saran Singh, Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Social Welfare, signed the Agreement on behalf of the Government of India, and Mr. T. Glan Davies, Regional Director UNICEF, on behalf of UNICEF. Mr. Davies had also signed the earlier agreement as UNICEF's the then Permanent Representative in India.

The new Agreement has several improved features over the previous one. Some of these are:

(i) transfer of ownership to the Government of India in respect of all UNICEF supplies directly on arrival in India purchases in India;

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- (ii) maximum local purchases by UNICEF in respect of its operations in the region; and
 - (iii) the termination of the pro-

vision in the 1949 Agreement that vested in UNICEF the authority to take appropriate action in cases of disagreement as to whether the terms of the Agreement are being complied with.

While the earlier agreement provided for UNICEF officers to have access to records of the Government to satisfy compliance with the agreement and freedom to observe distribution of supplies, the new proposed agreement provides that Government shall permit UNICEF officers to observe all phases of the plans of operations and cooperate with the Government officials in the review and preparation of proposed projects etc.

UNICEF, it may be recalled, is a member of the UN family, with a mandate to cover under its activities children of the world, particularly to help the developing countries in extending basic services for children.

The Basic Agreement, now replaced. had undergone changes through protocols executed between UNICEF and the Government of India on September 5, 1956 and October 18, 1961.

UNICEF's operations in India are among the largest in the world The value of UNICEF's assistance pledged for the Fifth Five Year Plan period is \$65.90 million. The value of UNICEF assistance for the three-year period 1978-80 is expected at over \$60 million of general funds, including the uncalled forward balance of about \$11 million, and \$12 million of noted funds.

India, on her part, is the twelfth largest donor country to UNICEF and the foremost among the developing countries. India's current contribution to the general resources of UNICEF stands at Rs. 110 lakhs a year, Besides, India contributes Rs. 18 lakhs a year towards administrative expenses of the UNICEF's South Central Asia Regional Office in New Delhi.

UNICEF's current operations in India are in the fields of child health; nutrition;

food processing; water supply and environmental sanitation; elementary education; nutrition education; and care of nursing and expectant mothers.

INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Apr 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Cultural Exchange Programme Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on the signing of the cultural exchange programme between India and the United Arab Emirates:

A cultural exchange programme between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for years 1978-79 was signed in New Delhi on April 29. The two signatories were Shri A. S. Gill, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Education, Social Welfare and Culture and Mr. Abdullah Nowais, Under Secretary, Ministry of Information and Culture of UAE.

Programme envisages cooperation between the two countries in fields of education, culture, sports and youth, press and radio and television.

Besides exchanging academics to deliver lectures in each other's country, both sides will exchange scholars working on West Asian history for establishing contacts between UAE and some Indian institutes engaged in West Asian studies. UAE will also send to India two senior academics in the field of modern Arabic for teaching the language in this country.

Immediate steps will also be taken by both sides to arrive at equivalence of degrees, diplomas, certificates awarded in the two countries.

In the field of culture, sports and youth they will exchange folk dance ensembles, arts exhibitions, sports teams and students and youth groups to participate in summer camps or some other such programmes.

In the field of media two sides will exchange radio and television programmes and encourage their respective news agencies to make arrangements for ensuring exchange of news. India will send technical personal in the field of television, radio film processing and telecommunications. It will also facilitate deputation of newsmen to work in news organisations and newspapers in UAE.

While UAE will organise a cultural week in India an Indian film week will be organised in that country.

Speaking on the occasion representatives of both countries expressed the view that with the signing of the programme relations between India and UAE will be further strengthened.

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Date: May 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

AUSTRIA

H.E. Mr. Pahr Hosts Dinner for Shri Vajpayee

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 22, 1978 of the speech by the Minister of External Affairs Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee at a dinner in his honour in Vienna by the Austrian Foreign Minister, His Excellency Mr. Willibald Pahr:

Your Excellency, Madame Pahr, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you for the cordial welcome extended to me, and to the members of my delegation and the warm sentiments you have expressed about my country. May I take this opportunity of reciprocating these sentiments and to say how happy I am to be in this lovely city of Vienna, a pleasure all the more intense for having been twice postponed?

When the great composers of the West have already immortalised in music, the rhythm and romance of this city, to praise it in words is perhaps superfluous. The heritage of Vienna and indeed, of the whole Austria, is the quintessence of Europe's glorious traditions in art and literature. It reminds me of India's own ancient heritage, stretching back to the dawn of human civilization, enriched by streams of many cultures that have flowed in over the centuries. Austria has been a great benefactor of mankind, and the contributions of her illustrious citizens in the fields of medicine, genetics, philosophy, psychology and the fine arts, to name a few, have enriched human life everywhere.

Excellency, as we observe the international scene, in this historic venue of peacemaking efforts, I cannot fail to remark that this city has provided a forum for significant multilateral discussions concerning the security of Europe and also a home for UN institutions like UNIDO and the International Atomic Energy Agency and organisations like OPEC. The presence here of these important institutions, dealing with some of the most complex trans-national problems of our times, is a tribute to the warmth of your traditional hospitality and to the relevance for the world of your policy of permanent and active neutrality. As the "Crucible of Europe", Austria has maintained an identity over the years which has gained international recognition. We value the role played today by Austria in promoting detente, harmony and cooperation in Europe so that the historical legacies of distrust and confrontation are replaced by an era of abiding peace and understanding.

Excellency, in the year since the Janata Government assumed office in India after the historic elections of March 1977, the results of which were a triumph of democratic values over authoritarianism we have spared no effort to be worthy of the trust reposed in us by our people. The fundamental freedoms which are enshrined in our Constitution, and which the people of India cherish, have now been restored.

We do, however, recognise that for these values to be preserved and enriched, our Government will have to strive ceaselessly to ensure that the vast majority of our people and especially those dwelling in the rural areas are guaranteed a minimum standard of living, while the nation itself marches ahead on the path of national self-reliance. It is in recognition of this fact that our Government has attached the highest priority to rural development and to ensuring that economic growth and development are regarded, not as ends in themselves, but as the means of seeing that Man becomes the centre of all our activities - political, economic and scientific. It was said in the great epic Mahabharat that there is nothing superior to man and his welfare.

In a land as vast and varied as India, of many religions and many languages, we feel

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that pragmatic measures have greater validity than doctrinaire beliefs. In preserving individual liberty and striving for social equality, we are indeed endeavouring to achieve the aims of decentralisation of political and economic power, thereby giving shape to the vision of Mahatma Gandhi. We feel that in this effort, we share much in common with the people of Austria and their enlightened leadership whose contribution to the cause of human freedom and dignity has been widely recognised.

In the sphere of external relations, we have, while strengthening established relationships, extended our hand of friendship to even those with whom we have had differences in the past. We have in the pursuit of these policies, not hesitated to make accommodation especially in improving the climate of our relations with our immediate neighbours.

Your Excellency, these efforts to build bridges of friendship with all countries on the basis of trust, equality and mutual benefit, are an integral part of our quest for and commitment to the goals of promoting international peace, stability and mutually beneficial cooperation. We believe that in efforts to achieve these objectives, we much in common with Austria, whose own abiding faith in these cherished ideals and in the evolution of a just and equitable world order, is so akin to ours.

Excellency, the relations between our two countries are unblemished and happy Under the dynamic leadership of Chancellor Kriesky, Austria has strengthened its links, with the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. He is a statesman whose knowledge of world affairs and consistent advocacy of human values and human rights have won him great respect everywhere. His interest in India and his concern for the welfare of our people have endeared him to us. My presence here today is symbolic of the

regard we feel for Austria.

It is therefore with deep feeling that I propose a toast to the health of the Federal President of Austria, His Excellency Dr. Kirchschlager, to Chancellor Kreisky, to your Excellency and Madame Pahr, to our gracious hosts, to the continuing prosperity of this great country and the abiding friendship between Austria and India.

AUSTRIA USA INDIA OMAN PERU

Date: May 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

BELGIUM

Indo-Belgian Programme for Cultural Exchanges

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 19, 1978:

A Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Belgium for the years 1978 and 1979 was signed in New Delhi on May 19, 1978. The two signatories were Dr. (Mrs.) Kapila Vatsyayan, Joint Educational Adviser, Union Department of Culture, and Mr. L. Schevenhels, Administrator General, Ministry of Dutch Culture, Brussels.

The programme containing 40 items envisages cooperation between the two countries in the fields of art and culture, sports, press, films, radio and television, education, science and technology.

In the field of art and culture, the two sides will exchange visits by dance-music ensembles and creative artistes. Also exchange of works between the Royal Library of Belgium and the National Library of Calcutta will be promoted. Museums and art galleries in the two countries will be encouraged to exchange books, publications, photographs, reproductions and exhibitions.

India and Belgium will also cooperate in the identification and evaluation of objects of Belgium origin in the Salarjung Museum, Hyderabad.

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An exhibition of Indian Handicrafts and Fabrics will be organised in Belgium. A Belgian exhibition, in turn, will be held in India.

India will send a hockey coach to Belgium. Also a Belgian hockey team will be invited to participate in the Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament later this year. In the field of media, the two countries will encourage participation in each other's festivals of feature and documentary films, exchange programmes on cultural and scientific radio broadcasts and T.V. programmes depicting various facets of life in India and Belgium.

The programme also seeks to promote bilateral contacts between the universities and institutions of higher learning in the two countries. Besides offering scholarships to each other's nationals, they will exchange documents to finalise proposals regarding establishment of equivalence of degrees and diplomas awarded by institutions of learning in the two countries.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Vatsyayan and Mr. Schevenhels expressed the hope that the signing of the programme, cultural relations between India and Belgium will be further cemented.

BELGIUM INDIA USA

Date: May 01, 1978

Volume No

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Shri Vajpayee's Speech at Seminar on "Continuity and Change in India's Foreign Policy"

The following is the inaugural address by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs, at the Seminar on "Continuity and Change in India's Foreign Policy", at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, on May 13, 1978:

I am grateful to the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, for having invited me to speak at the seminar on "Continuity and Change in India's Foreign Policy". In the introductory remarks that have been made, one has been able to detect the challenge that the seminar's theme represents, both in an academic discourse on the subject as well as in its practical manifestations.

It is a moot question whether the responsibility of conducting the foreign policy of a country of India's size and diversity is more difficult than the task of defining or explaining it. The task becomes a little more daunting when one is faced with a galaxy of intellectuals, such as those present here today, with their insatiable desire to probe and scrutinise every phrase and every word that the Minister of External Affairs of India may have to say.

When the Janata Government assumed office just over a year ago, we pledged ourselves to a foreign policy based on national consensus within the parameters of genuine non-alignment. The election manifesto of the Janata Party had defined the goals of its foreign policy clearly and precisely. Even though, as you are all well aware, the historic elections of March 1977 were fought entirely on domestic issues, the directions given in the manifesto became my government's firm guidelines in the conduct of its foreign policy.

Yet, no country can afford not to take into account the shifting trends and perceptions constantly occuring in our world. It is the interaction between these changes and the socioeconomic processes going on imperceptibly in our own country that poses a challenge to our foreign policy tasks as well as perceptions.

Our response to this challenge must in turn be determined by the overriding consideration of the pursuit of our national in-

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NATIONAL INTEREST

One must hasten to clarify here that the perception of national interest has itself varied widely through different phases of history. When Palmerston made the celebrated remark: "England has no permanent friends and no permanent enemies: it has only permanent interests", he was giving expression to a thesis which does not have universal validity, but reflected England's interests which were imperial and were pursued ruthlessly. While it brought an era of great prosperity and power to Britain. It also caused countless misery to millions of people all over the globe by impoverishing them and depriving them of their basic resources as well as opportunity for development.

While the colonial powers engaged in satisfying their national appetite through the rapacious loot of others, there were other great powers, or would be great powers, which sought to enhance their wealth and Power through isolationism. Global interdependence was still a dream of the distant unforeseeable future, but internationalism was becoming a fashionable slogan in the circles of nascent ideologies. These concepts were alternately adopted and discarded depending upon which of the two appeared to Provide the best means of enhancing the im-Mediate national interest.

For instance, the call for world revo-

lution and support to the proletariat in all countries was hastily replaced by the slogan "socialism in one country". Stalin's slogan in the late twenties that 'one Soviet tractor is worth more than ten good foreign communists, epitomized the retreat from internationalism into the confines of nationalism. On a slightly different scale, America's stubborn refusal for decades to stir out of its self-chosen isolation and then to get over-involved in the affairs of the world in a matter of only a few years, shows how perceptions of national interest have fluctuated from one end of the spectrum to the other.

The trouble with this process was that the quest for greater national power and prosperity was seldom motivated by concern for others, especially for the weak and technologically less-advanced. If war was considered necessary to promote the national purpose, it was freely resorted to, justifying, tragically, Clausewitz's dictum: "War is the continuation of politics by other means".

It was only after the development of atomic weapons that Clausewitz's dictum began to be treated with some caution. Nuclear war, it was realised, is not politics, as it would lead to the extermination of the contestants. Ten years ago, President de Gaulle's Minister of Interior, referring to Civil defence in a possible nuclear war, said in all seriousness that he was making a list of all the existing caves in France, so as to use them for that purpose. What he did not say, of course, was that nuclear war will take the few survivors to the age of cavedwellers.

There are some who see a built-in dilemma between a nation's security and, what for want of a better expression, I would call its external morality. A pragmatic foreign policy is essential, they say, for the preservation of the national interest and security. Such a foreign policy has to necessarily compromise with principles and sacriflee morality, if only occasionally.

To me such a dilemma appears unreal, if not totally contrived. The fact is that some nations, acting under misperception of their

national purpose, occasionally fail to resist the temptation of snapping up short-term advantages, whether in political, strategic or economic terms. They do not realise that by hurting some one else, or perpetrating an injustice, in the process, they are not really promoting their own long-term interests.

Such conduct breeds suspicion, discontent and bitterness which carry in their womb the seeds of conflict.

It has been the purpose of India's foreign policy to promote harmony, trust and a cooperative spirit among nations. Such a relationship among nations would strengthen peace, eliminate tensions and reduce the danger of conflict.

Proceeding from this self-evident premise of our foreign policy, it is not difficult to see that there need be no dilemma between our national purpose and principles on which our foreign policy is based.

DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

Our concept of security is not militaristic. We realise that security comes through

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inner strength, economic, political and social It comes through the stability of our demo cratic institutions.

The object of our foreign policy is not therefore to attain strategic advantages, or extract a concession or two from a weaker fellow nation. Such an advantage would be counter-productive.

The main objective of our foreign policy is to create around us an environment of peace, trust and stability which would permit optimum utilisation of our natural and man-power resources for economic, social and cultural advancement. It is only in a climate of trust and peace that the creative forces of our people can be released and harnessed for improving the well-being of society.

Sometime in January this year, I had the occasion to tell an audience in Osmania

University: "My Government has followed the principle of continuity in foreign policy where it was desirable and based on national consensus. Where the national perception was in favour of a change, or change in emphasis, we have not hesitated to bring that about."

Let us subject this statement to a critical scrutiny.

The policy of good-neighbourliness is a cliche that no Government has omitted to proclaim. It is a different matter that sometimes these proclamations sounded hollow because of the superior and imperious tone adopted by those whose job it was to be humble

The result was distrust and suspicion of interference even where there was no interference.

The Janata Government, from the first day of its existence, set out deliberately to clear the cobwebs of suspicion, remove misunderstanding and banish the fear of interference. We have not only professed strict non-interference in the internal affairs of our neighbours, but practised it, often in the face of great temptation to do the contrary.

In seeking and offering cooperation to our neighbours, we have never imposed ourselves upon them. We have gently tried to explain the mutuality of advantage in bilateralism and allowed the irresistible logic of geography to assert itself.

It would not be immodest to claim that our search for a benign environment round India has been more transparently successful than any one could have thought possible a year ago. There is confidence now in India's word. There is confidence also that India is today prepared to make its due share of sacrifice to promote the well-being and development of its neighbours which in the long term serves our own interests also.

OPEN POLICY

We have conducted and are conducting

an open policy of friendship, mutually advantageous cooperation and equal and beneficial bilateralism with our neighbours. There are no hidden undertones or traps here, nor the desire to score a point.

In short we have done away with the duality that had crept into the conduct of the country's foreign policy some time ago. By promoting trust and cooperation, we have only furthered our national interest.

During my visits to Nepal, Bhutan, Burma, Afghanistan and Pakistan, I was informed of their appreciation of our open, honest and frank approach to bilateral questions. Our neighbours are also convinced that the Janata Government regards them as sovereign equals, as they indeed are, and that India as a bigger country, has not failed in reassuring them of their legitimate role in strengthening peace, stability and cooperation in this region.

Another area that had received insufficient attention in the past and which is now an important focus of our foreign policy activities is South-East Asia and Japan. We are endeavouring to strengthen the sinews of multisided cooperation with that great Asian country, Japan. With ASEAN we are seeking fresh links that would intensify and increase our involvement in each other's prosperity and well-being.

We have broken new ground in responding with sincerity and speed to Vietnam's desire for cooperation and participation in the immense task which that brave country faces in the reconstruction of its national economy and life. It is a matter of some pride that India is the first country outside the socialist bloc to which Vietnam, which is as much non-aligned as socialist, has turned for a close, abiding and mutually advantageous relationship.

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The Janata Government has continued the country's traditional policy on West Asia Even in this continuity, we have attempted to remove some misunderstandings which had crept into India's relations with, for example, Egypt.

Our policy remains a principled one Israel's aggressive acquisitions and claims, arising from the mists of Biblical history, are untenable. There can be no durable peace, less so for Israel itself, without the complete withdrawal by it from all occupied Arab territories and without the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to form their own national state.

RELATIONS WITH BIG POWERS

In our relations with the big-powers, have brought about greater balance and sobriety. You would recall that Foreign Minister Gromyko of USSR was one of the very first visitors to this country at the invitation of the Janata Government. Later in the year, Pirme Minister Morarji Desai was received in the Kremlin by Soviet leaders in vivid demonstartion of the continuing friendship and trust between our two great nations.

Earlier this year the Indo-Soviet Joint Commission added new dimensions to our growing bilateral cooperation in the economic, scientific and technological spheres.

All this has served to demonstrate that a principled relationship is not subordinate to twists in the fortunes of a political party, or the whims and fate of an individual.

President Carter's visit to India last January opened a new chapter in our relations with the United States. Minor irritants and suspicions, which marred these relations in the past and attracted disproportionately large attention, have been removed. There is a new rapport and understanding between the leaders which augurs well for the revival of mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation.

It must also be said that Indo-American relations are now marked with a sense of equality that had eluded us before. For the first time in the history of our relations, a high-level dialogue was carried out without the inhibiting theme of aid or economic assis-

tance featuring even once during the discussions. The traditional image of a donor-recipient relationship between the USA and India has been replaced by an equal partnership based on friendship and a common win to cooperate both in bilateral matters and on international issues.

This is not to suggest that there are no problems between our two countries. Both India and United States are open societies and exposed to those hazards that characterize free and open societies. We may have different views on certain issues or different approaches to a particular problem. But an encouraging feature is the total lack of rancour with which any such differences are discussed between the two countries and governments.

Those who accuse us of 'tilting dangerously' are unable to appreciate this transformation, for they themselves have never stood straight. They are simply responding to certain reflexes to which they have become conditioned over a long period of time.

I think this whole talk of a tilt is like a hoary old chestnut which must be discarded once for all. India is too mature and proud a country to want to tilt this way or the other.

I would now briefly touch upon some other vital areas of international life where our foreign policy has acquired a new dynamism, a new thrust.

The amount of words, passionate and emotive, that have been used to describe the desperate need for disarmament would drown this globe several times over. The time has come to move to action and shed off the trappings of debates and resolutions.

TOTAL DISARMAMENT

The feeling had begun to gather that India was becoming lukewarm to the cause of universal and total disarmament. It hardly showed any initiative in the seventies in any of the disarmament forums where India relegated itself more and more to a back seat.

For a peace-loving nation like India this was hardly the right posture. We have now endeavoured to correct this position.

In the non-aligned forums we have moved forward and initiated a process of consultations, which, hopefully, should result in a unanimous non-aligned approach at the forthcoming discussions on disarmament at

210 the Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly.

What we advocate is an international consensus on a series of concrete disarmament measures, in both conventional and nuclear weaponry, with a programme of implementation in a given time-frame and with a machinery to implement them.

We are not so starry-eyed as not to realise that disarmament, especially in the sphere of strategic nuclear weapons, is an extremely delicate exercise that the great powers would be reluctant to conduct in the open with us. At the same time, we feel that it is a burden that must not be left to the judgement and wisdom of the great powers alone.

The scourge of war has still not been banished. The strategy is that wars are still being waged to obtain limited gains in terms of territory or other strategic advantages.

War unfortunately has been a constant element in every civilisation. In a very recent book, "War and the Liberal Conscience", the author, Michael Howard has forcefully drawn attention to the stark truth that human history is "a melancholy story of the efforts of good men to abolish war, but only succeeding thereby to make it more terrible."

The great powers realise the terrible consequences of war, but are at the same time aware of its lucrative nature so long as it does not involve or hurt them. So if the poorer, developing countries fight amongst themselves for a piece of territory or something else, they are ready to dash in, in order

to make handsome profits.

The developing countries must be made aware of this danger which weakens them further and saps their strength for development. It would be our effort to make this an important plank of the non-aligned nations' drive for disarmament and peace.

NON-ALIGNMENT

We think it is essential for this purpose for all members of the movement to adhere strictly and genuinely to the concept of non-alignment. The presence of foreign armed personnel in large numbers on the territory of a non-aligned country for long periods, particularly when these are no longer needed for defence against external aggression, is likely to cause anxiety in the minds of other non-aligned nations. Apart from the familiar attributes and criteria of non-alignment, a mental attitude of non-alignment is also desirable for preserving and consolidating the unity and cohesiveness of the non-aligned movement.

A great deal of attempt is apparently being made to confuse the situation regarding our policy on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The only way to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons is to bring about a complete cessation of the production of nuclear weapons and simultaneously cut off the manufacture of all weapon grade fissionable material. All nuclear establishments would then automatically become peaceful.

If the nuclear weapon powers were to agree to prohibit all nuclear testing, undertake to reduce and ultimately eliminate their stockpiles of nuclear weapons, then the problem regarding the discriminatory application of safeguards would become reduntant. In the absence of such an agreement it would be futile to expect India to accept any safeguards which are discriminatory and which inhibit its peaceful nuclear programmes.

There can be no doubt about India's policy. We have set an example by abjuring the manufacture or acquisition of nuclear

weapons. We have pledged ourselves to developing nuclear technology exclusively for peaceful purposes. It is, therefore, incredible that those who have nuclear weapons and continue to add to the stockpiles of their nuclear weaponry, should consider it morally binding to ask India to accept constraints on its nuclear energy development programme which is purely peaceful.

We intend to adhere firmly to this policy unperturbed by any pressures that some may feel tempted to exert in any form or another.

The most urgent task before society today is to ensure the economic well-being of vast multitudes which continue: to live in a state of poverty and deprivation. It is an absolute imperative for securing the stability of our society and of our democratic institutions.

Though crushing poverty is a thing of the past, a large proportion of the population finds itself condemned like Sisyphus, to push

211 the stone of subsistence perennially up the hill.

RIGHT ENVIRONMENT

This is a problem that we must resolve through our own domestic effort. The job of foreign policy is to create the right environment and climate for the internal effort to be made in peaceful and stable conditions.

Though the overwhelming proportion of the effort for improving living standards comes from our own national resources, it is admitted that international economic relations have a role to play in it. I do not intend to elaborate here what we have been doing in this regard, particularly since I had an occasion to dwell at length upon this subject in the speech I made at Osmania University at the end of January this year.

I would merely like to point out that the primary responsibility for ensuring the fair play in international commerce and economic exchange rests on the industrially advanced countries. They ought to realise that prosperity multiplies when it is shared.

The industrial nations have unfortunately been changing the rules of the game as it suits them. When they were colonial masters and possessed captive markets, the noblest philosophy was free trade since it permitted a free flow of raw materials and lucrative outlet for their manufactured goods. Today, when the developing countries have attained a certain level of competence in industrial technology, the advanced nations are building up all kinds of protectionist fences.

We would like these ramparts, which discriminate against the developing countries, to be dismantled. Only then will the commitment to the establishment of a new international economic order have any meaning.

APARTHEID AND RACISM

In the universal struggle against the monstrosity of apartheid and racism we have always been in the forefront. Our commitment to majority rule in Zimbabwe, unfettered independence for Namibia and the ultimate elimination of racial bigotry from that citadel of racism, South Africa, is second to none. We have been giving and will continue to extend our moral, political and material support to the liberation movements in these countries.

RELATIONS WITH CHINA

I am conscious I have so far not said anything about our relations with China.

We want to further improve and normalise our relations with the People's Republic of China. This can be done, as the Chinese leadership itself says, on the basis of the five principles of Panchsheel and consistent with our dignity and national honour.

Some visible improvements have taken place in this relationship. Trade has been resumed and trade delegations are being exchanged. There have also been exchanges in the field of culture and sports. Indian journalists have been visiting China. In short,

there is now a more relaxed relationship between the two countries.

But some major issues remain unresolved. It would be unrealistic to expect that full normalisation or friendship can be restored while these problems remain. We have stated our desire to resolve all major issues peacefully through bilateral negotiations and we believe this is the desire of the Chinese leaders also.

We would continue to make efforts and take initiative where possible to expand and diversify our bilateral relations and cooperation with China.

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, friends, I have taken you through this detailed and laborious course to illustrate the basic parameters and directions of our foreign policy, the initiatives we have taken and those that we intend to take. It was my attempt to establish that with full regard to our national interests and the constant and rapid changes taking place in the world around us, we have made our policies contemporaneous with present realities.

You would have been able, I am sure, to detect the change that we have brought about in the conduct of our foreign relations with our immediate neighbours and near neighbours and with the big powers, to give only a few examples. You would have noticed the increased emphasis and action-oriented

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importance we have been giving to such vital issues as disarmament.

NEW OPTIONS

All this has given new options in our foreign policy and greater flexibility and room for manoeuvre in pursuing our national interests in conformity with traditionally established principles. I believe, therefore, that India today stands on the threshold of playing its rightful role, consistent with its history and mature tradition, size and population, economic and cultural strength as well as the stability of its democratic structure, in

the affairs of the world and in the promotion of peace and undertsanding among nations.

As it were, our non-alignment has become genuine and infused with a new life. It has been made relevant in polycentric world where ideologies are fast becoming irrelevant and military blocs gradually losing their rationale for existence.

The re-assertion of non-alignment and peaceful co-existence as an enlightened perception for an inter-dependent community of nations, marks, if you permit me, the restoration of idealism and principled behaviour in the conduct of India's foreign policy. We have achieved a remarkable degree of peace. mutual trust and stability around us without compromising any of the principles from which our foreign policy has derived sustenance.

In making this claim, I am not trying to gild the lily or present an idyllic picture. India today has less reason than ever before to fear threats or attempts to distract her from constructive endeavour at home. The Sub-continent as a whole pulsates with a new confidence in peace and desire for cooperation.

The last twelve months have been an unusually exciting and intense period for our diplomacy. The circle of our external relations has grown very much wider. Leaders of a record number of countries from different continents representing different social systems, have visited us to exchange views with our leaders. We ourselves have not exactly been immobile and our leaders and senior members of Government have visited a number of countries to benefit from their experience and to promote bilateral cooperation.

These facts speak for themselves and it is for you to judge as to what extent we have brought about a change, both in content as well as in style, while preserving the innate continuity of our traditional foreign policy which derives its basis and inspiration. from the ideals of our struggle for independence.

If there is any change, it has been to impart honesty and sincerity to our national purpose consistent with our principles. If there has been a change, it has been to impart a fresh thrust to the promotion of the cause of peace and disarmament, to strengthen stability and cooperative spirit, to fortify independence and freedom from exploitation.

Thank you.

INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC FRANCE PERU BHUTAN NEPAL AFGHANISTAN BURMA PAKISTAN JAPAN VIETNAM EGYPT ISRAEL UNITED KINGDOM RUSSIA ZIMBABWE NAMIBIA SOUTH AFRICA CHINA MALI

Date: May 01, 1978

Volume No

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HUNGARY

India and Hungary to Cooperate in Several New Areas

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 27, 1978 on the signing of a protocol in Budapest:

India and Hungary have agreed to develop areas of economic, industrial cooperation and restructuring of the industrial strategies in the two countries according to a time-bound and specific programme. This is incorporated in the protocol signed at the end of the third session of the Indo-

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Hungarian joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation at Budapest. The protocol was signed by Shri George Fernandes, Minister of Industry, who is the Indian Co-Chairman of the Joint Commission and the Hungarian Co-Chairman Mrs. Janos Keseru, Minister of Light Industry of the Hungarian People's Republic.

The protocol marks the development of cooperation in several new areas which have been specified in discussions by the Union Minister of Industry with the Prime Minister of Hungary, Mr. Gyorgy Layar. Shri Fernandes also discussed specific projects of economic cooperation and trade with Mr. Joysef Biro, Minister of Foreign Trade and Dr. Pal Romany, Minister of Agriculture. Both the Prime Minister of Hungary and the Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party, Mr. Andras Gyenes, who had detailed discussions with the Union Minister of Industry, appreciated the thrust of the economic and industrial policies of the Government of India and its approach to international issues.

It was also recognised in these meetings that as a result of the discussions both India and Hungary have established a new plain of closer understanding and friedship.

In the protocol it has been agreed that cooperation should be established in setting up important projects in India of mineral development relating to Alumina in the Kutch region of Gujarat, Titanium Dioxide with bye-product production of special pig iron in Kerala and Tungsten development in Rajasthan. it has been agreed that the H.M.T. collaboration with the Hungarian Organisation Tungsram would be expanded to cover a wider range of manufacture of lamp making machinery and lamps including flourescent tubes and illumination in mines.

The collaboration between Indian firms and the Hungarian firms has also been extended for manufacture of additional number of basic drugs including Chloroquin Phosphate, an anti-malaria drug. Agreement was also reached for establishment of fruit processing plants in the North-Western Region and North-Eastern Region of India. Several matters regarding increasing export of engineering goods and products and non-traditional products from India were also discussed and settled.

For the first time H.M.T. have secured an order for export of their machine tools

to Hungary. Similarly, exports of leather and leather-ware items from India to Hungary and third countries would be substantially increased and several additional units set up in India. Other products to be exported from India include handtools, agricultural implements, automobile parts, bicycle parts, castings etc. It has also been agreed that Hungary would import basic drugs and intermediates from India, particularly sulpha drugs.

Another important dimension of cooperation which has been specified in the protocol relates to third country projects. It has been agreed that the collaboration between Hungary and India for manufacture of basic drugs and lamps and lamp-making machinery would also be extended for projects in third countries. In this connection, projects for lamps and lamp-making machinery have been identified in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Philippines.

Yet another important feature of the cooperation agreed to relates to specifying modelities on collaboration between the cooperative organisations of both the countries.

It has been agreed that specified multipurpose cooperatives in Hungary would have detailed discussions and negotiations with a specified multi-purpose cooperatives in India so that porgrammes and projects covering a wide field for development of agriculture and small scale industries is also implemented on the ground. Communications have also been established between the cooperative organisations of both the countries for increasing the trade in products including products manufactured by the handloom. and small scale sectors in India.

An agreement has also been reached for specified programmes of cooperation relating to development of water management sciences and irrigation systems in India and for deputation of scientific experts for warehousing technology, enzymes, alumina, building sciences and fruit processing. A working programme for three years was also concluded with the Institute of Science and Culture.

The discussions which have established a new and meaningful cooperation in several fields between the two countries also covered the promotion of cultural exchanges particularly joint research projects in language,

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arts and pure sciences. It has also been agreed that hotels and restaurants would be opened on a reciprocal basis. The Joint Commission has also established monitoring system to ensure implementation of the decisions taken within the specified time-bound programmes laid down. The implementation would be reviewed periodically by the Co-Chairmen.

The Union Minister of Industry has extended invitation to Mrs. Keseru, Hungarian Co-Chairman and Minister of Light Industry and her colleagues to visit New Delhi for the next meeting of the Joint Commission.

HUNGARY INDIA USA OMAN RUSSIA INDONESIA PHILIPPINES LATVIA

Date: May 01, 1978

Volume No

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INDIA AND NON-ALIGNMENT

Shri Samarendra Kundu's Speech at Non-Aligned Coordination Meeting

The following is the speech by Shri Samarendra Kundu, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India, at the Non-Aligned Co-ordination Meeting at Havana on May 18, 1978:

Mr. Chairman, India had the honour of hosting the first Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Co-ordinating Bureau after the Colombo Summit. On this occasion of the second Ministerial Conference of the

Bureau, may I convey to this distinguished assembly and through it to the Government and the people of Cuba our warm greetings and good wishes for the success of our deliberations.

The current Conference taking place in the beautiful city of Havana is timely. We have come here to review the world situation and developments since the New Delhi Bureau Meeting, and to prepare for the forthcoming Conference of Foreign Ministers of all the non-aligned countries scheduled in Belgrade in July this year.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that despite the unforeseen circumstances, the Bureau is meeting more or less on schedule. I should like to compliment the Government of Cuba for readily offering to host the Conference at such a short notice and for having made excellent arrangements for it.

The fact that the venue of the Conference was shifted without much delay or difficulty from Asia to Latin America reflects the strength and sense of purpose that animates our efforts in the Non-Aligned Movement.

The Bureau is meeting inLatin America after a period of three years. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate India's full support for the efforts of the countries of this Continent to consolidate their national independence. It is our hope that this meeting will also be conducive to the strengthening of the roots of the Non-Aligned Movement in Latin America.

We were looking forward to our Conference in Kabul. While it has not taken place, due to internal developments, we note with satisfaction the policy announcement of the new Government of its determination to pursue a policy of positive non-alignment.

The fraternity of the non-aligned belongs to an extra-ordinary diversity of countries with a wide geographical spread. They constitute more than half the world community. That most countries which achieved the independence in the last three decades have joined the non-aligned family is indicative of the conceptual soundness and indispen-

sability of the policy of non-alignment.

We are united in our faith in the abiding validity of the principles of non-alignment as representing our determination for independence of action and judgement in our political attitudes, economic policies and safeguarding our sovereignty.

In this over-armed and turbulent world, non-alignment has stood for freedom from fear. It has established the personality of independent nations in terms of their own civilizations and ethos. It has given them

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the courage to pursue an independent foreign Policy and maintain uncompromising opposition to the colonial and neo-colonial exploitation and all other forms of external domination and to the out-dated doctrine of discrimination based on race and colour.

Non-alignment has won respect of the world community and has made a positive and ever growing contribution to the solution of the complex problems confronting humanity in the search for peace, disarmament and establishment of the New International Economic Order.

The growing impact of the Movement in the world situation makes it imperative that we preserve its true spirit and distinct identity and promote steadfast adherence to its principles and purposes drawn up by the founding fathers of our Movement so clearly and with such great foresight. We need to ensure that non-alignment remains genuine and purposeful and steers clear of rival power bloc politics, ideological conformity and the pulls of confrontationist multilateral military alliances.

CHALLENGING TASK

Unity and solidarity among the nonaligned countries is an essential pre-requisite for preserving the dynamic action capabilities of our movement. The challenging task before us is to consolidate our gains and further enhance the effectiveness of the Movement by taking concerted and collective initiatives on major issues of global concern in the field of detente, disarmament and development.

The effectiveness of our Movement depends on the extent of our unity within our ranks and the manner in which we practise the principles of the Movement.

I would, therefore, earnestly appeal to all member countries of the Non-Aligned Movement to close our ranks and march ahead with confidence born out of a sense of unity of purpose.

Utmost vigilance is necessary to maintain unity among ourselves. We must ensure that problems among non-aligned countries and internal differences among us are resolved bilaterally, peacefully and without external interference.

If we, as non-aligned countries, cannot help to resolve them, outside powers are sure to exploit our weaknesses and will succeed in extending their spheres of influence ad over again. In these circumstances, the problems inherited from our colonial past, instead of moving towards satisfactory solutions, will only get further accentuated. it should be the task of this Bureau to provide timely direction and momentum for promoting a climate of mutual trust, confidence and cooperation among ourselves.

Mr. Chairman, the world community has accepted the need to build a new world order based on equality and justice. Mankind looks forward to an era of shared progress and prosperity in an environment of durable peace and the fullest use of latest advances in science and technology for maximizing human welfare.

And yet peace remains as elusive as ever, disarmament is still distant goal and the pace of development of developing countries continues to be slow.

We are confronted with deliberate aggravation of tensions in crisis areas, continued existence of colonialism, apartheid, foreign exploitation and aggression in many regions of the world.

SOUTH AFRICA

In Southern Africa, the situation is fraught with grave consequences for stability in the region and for international peace and security. The heinous practice of apartheid being perpetuated and the oppression of Africans on their own soil goes on with impunity.

The special session of the United Nations General Assembly on Namibia brought into sharp focus Overwhelming international support for taking urgent steps to end the illegal occupation by South Africa of this international territory and to restore to the Namibians their inalienable right to self-determination and genuine independence. The session had barely ended when South Africa launched its premeditated unprovoked aggression on Angola.

The move exposed South Africa's purely "tactical" move in announcing "qualified acceptance" of Western proposals on Namibia: It strengthened the conviction of those who were sceptical about a peaceful negotiated settlement in the light of the obduracy of the South African regime. It is clear that unless effective political, economic and

216 diplomatic pressure is brought to bear upon this regime, the negotiations are unlikely to make any real headway.

We have always advocated negotiated settlement without bloodshed. But clearly as it was said by Foreign Minister of India at the United Nations special session on Namibia, this cannot be a ruse for buying time, while South Africa continues its internal oppression and exploitation of the coloured population and its external intimidation of its neighbours. South Africa should not be allowed to put the facade of so called internal settlement. We would welcome a peaceful change. If these efforts do not succeed due to the intransigence of South Africa, India will fully support the efforts of the patriotic forces, led by SWAPO, to gain their freedom.

Non-aligned countries have been active in the Security Council on this issue. It is note-worthy to recall that it was on the initiative of non-aligned members in the Security Council that it recently adopted, unanimously, a resolution condemning the recent aggression by South Africa of Angola.

In Zimbabwe also, the "Internal Settlement" stands fully exposed. The people of Zimbabwe cannot be satisfied with in illusion of independence through such misleading measures. They are perfectly right in having rejected the so-called "Internal Settlement" which in any case is doomed to failure. The only solution in Zimbabwe is to transfer power unconditionally to the majority. If the illegal racist regime continues to thwart the efforts of a peaceful solution any longer, it would be doing so at its own peril. India fully supports the struggle of the Patriotic Front for Liberation and is fully convinced of its ultimate triumph. We are determined to complete the task which the father of our nation, Mahatma Gandhi, started in South Africa-more than 80 years ago.

WEST ASIA

The situation in West Asia has continued to be explosive. Israel remains in occupation of vast tracts of Arab territories. A new and dangerous element has been introduced in an already complicated situation by its latest act of blatant aggression on Lebanon. Israel must vacate all Arab territories if it wishes genuine peace and secure and recognized boundaries in the region. The inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right of the refugees for the establishment of a Palestinian entity must be recognized. While we fully support the just Arab cause, we cannot but ask our Arab brothers to stand united. Any division within their ranks is bound to strengthen Israel in its intention to defy the search for a just and durable peace.

The situation in the Horn of Africa is one which should concern non-aligned countries. Both Ethiopia and Somalia are members of our Movement. It is a matter of deep regret to us that they had to have recourse to arms. Any differences between the two parties should be settled peacefully and only on the basis of negotiations. Any attempts of changing the existing boundaries by use of force cannot be condoned. It is our fervent hope that the opportunity presented by the lull in the fighting will not be missed and a useful dialogue could begin, leading to a durable solution acceptable to both sides.

The situation in the unhappy island of Cyprus has remained unresolved. Territorial integrity, sovereignty and non-aligned status of Cyprus cannot be tampered with. We believe that it is high time that a solution to this problem on the basis of negotiations to be conducted between the two Cypriot communities, and free from all external interference, is arrived at. Any further delay would only aggravate the simmering situation and increase the suffering of innocent people.

INDIAN OCEAN

The United Nations Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace looms large in our perception of peace and stability. We are greatly concerned at the lack of progress so far in the implementation of this Declaration. Its objective, fully subscribed to by all littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean, to create a Zone of Peace free from tension and the Great-Power military activity arising out of their rivalry, represents the aspirations of all countries in the region for peace and security. The cooperation of Great Powers and major maritime users with the littoral and hinterland States constitutes an essential element of this objective. It is our hope, therefore, that the currently deadlocked talks between USA and USSR on this subject would not only be resumed but that their scope will be broadened to bring them in line with the aims of the Declaration.

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On our part, in pursuit of our goal of durable peace, we have been able to take major steps towards improvement of relations with all our neighbours. I am happy to say that in the past one year, the Government of India has taken many fruitful initiatives to develop relations with our neighbours on the basis of beneficial bilateralism. We can claim that, in some measure, the basis for trust and cooperation with our neighbours has been expanded with the removal of some old suspicions and irritants. With sustained diplomacy and reciprocal response we hope we can move steadily forward to a new era of good neighbourly relations in our region.

DISARMAMENT

An important item on the Agenda of our current meeting is the preparation for the forthcoming session of the United Nations General, Assembly on Disarmament. The session has been convened at the initiative of the Non-Aligned Movement. We must, therefore, ensure its meaningful conclusion. Earlier this year, we had shared our thoughts on this subject in a letter written by the Foreign Minister of India to the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, copies of which had also been sent to the Foreign Ministers of other Members of the Co-ordinating Bureau.

The Preparatory Committee for the special session has now concluded its work. The spirit of accommodation and the constructive approach displayed by the nonaligned countries working in close co-operation with each other, has not brought the desired response even at the concluding session of the Preparatory Committee. Agreement on some of the very fundamental aspects of disarmament is nowhere in sight.

The non-aligned draft Declaration and Programme of Action provides the agreed base for the efforts which the non-aligned need to make collectively at the forth-coming session in order that a time-bound programme of disarmament and, in particular, nuclear disarmament is adopted, on the basis of consensus, at the forthcoming special session.

The time for rhetoric on this question is long past. The arms race with its arsenal of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction has reached an alarming stage. In all our efforts in the field of disarmament,

nuclear disarmament has to be given top priority. Stockpiling of nuclear weapons must stop forthwith and steps taken to ultimately eliminate them altogether. The use of nuclear weapons ought to be outlawed as a crime against humanity, and the testing of nuclear weapons must stop. India was the first country at the United Nations, more than 30 years ago, which called for a ban on the testing of all nuclear weapons. At the forthcoming special session concrete steps in the area of nuclear disarmament need to be taken. All nuclear weapon powers should respond in a positive manner in formulating a realistic and timebound programme and concrete measures for disarmament without further delay.

The non-aligned countries must raise their voices in unison at the forthcoming session to demonstrate their real concern on this issue. Disarmament is essential for man's survival. It is also important for the social and economic development of the developing countries. We need to establish an integral link between disarmament and development and ensure that the amount saved as a result of reduction of expenditure on armaments is channelled into plans for accelerating the process of development of developing countries.

World military expenditure at current prices is said to be of the order of nearly 400 billion dollars out of which 90 per cent is accounted for by developed countries. This is tantamount to 20 times the official Development Assistance now given to developing countries. It is tragic indeed that in this overarmed world two-thirds of humanity should live in conditions of avoidable poverty. The world community has taken a long time to recognize that the solution of economic problems is vital for the lowering of political tensions and the maintenance of world peace.

ECONOMIC SITUATION

The international economic situation today causes us grave concern and relationships between the developed and developing countries continue to be bedevilled by un-

certainties.

The Second Development Decade will have concluded in less than three years. The failure to reach the targets specified in the International Development Strategy within the given timeframe is a cause for deep dis-

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appointment. Certain new trends have appeared on the international economic scene, since the beginning of the decade which are indeed alarming.

Many developed countries have raised protectionist walls against goods exported by developing countries in precisely those areas where the developing countries, through strenous efforts, have achieved the comparative advantage in production.

It is true that developed countries do have problems of inflation and unemployment in their own economies. Instead, however, of looking outwards to an expanding world economy, and adopting appropriate measures such as effective adjustment programmes, confrontationist rhetoric is often used by many countries to justify these retrogressive trends. No casual link has established between the unemployment situation in these countries and the impact of import penetration of goods from developing countries.

This, Mr. Chairman, is only one example of the overall approach of developed countries to the attempts of all developing countries to diversify their economies and become self-reliant through increasing their earnings from exports.

This growth of protectionism in developed countries, Mr. Chairman, is a reflection of their basic unwillingness to accept developing countries as equal partners in the growth of the international economy.

While the manufactures and semimanufactures exported by developing countries face these barriers, the commodities exported by developing countries similarly continue to be vulnerable to the fluctuations in the international economy. There has been little or no movement in international negotiations on commodities. Very few new individual commodity agreements are in sight and the negotiations on the Integrated Programme for Commodities, adopted in 1976 by UNCTAD, appear to be stalled.

We hope, however, that it may become possible in the near future for the developed countries to adopt a more flexible attitude, at least on the negotiations on the Common Fund which is the key instrument of the Integrated Programme of Commodities.

The developing countries have, in view of the vital issues at stake, extended the hand of co-operation to the developed countries: they have agreed that major issues of vital interest to the economies of all countries have the possibility of being discussed and deliberated upon within the United Nations; we have adopted a flexible and forward looking attitude in international economic negotiations.

The developed countries must be made to realize their own stakes in this process; that it is in their own self-interest to move forward in making the world a more equitable one.

We recognize that there has been slight signs of movement on the issue of external indebtedness of developing countries. However, the problem still remains unsolved and while negotiations on this important issue continue, the developed countries, with the exception of one or two cases, have taken no action to resolve the enormous debt burden which remains with us.

SELF-RELIANCE

It may well be asked, Mr. Chairman, what the performance of developing countries has been during this period. I feel that our successes are too often ignored. Great sacrifices and efforts have been made by developing countries towards the goal of self-reliance. The per capita GNP of the poorest developing countries have doubled since 1960; the life expectancy has increased significantly

by about 20 per cent; the spread of education, both at the primary level and through the adult literacy programmes has increased. Most of these efforts have been made by sacrifices borne by the people of the developing countries themselves.

We are not unaware of our failures. We are, however, trying to build on the experience gained in order to ensure a better way of life for our peoples.

Mr. Chairman, we have reiterated time and again that the primary responsibility for the development of our economies rest with ourselves. However, without a change in the existing system and structure of economic relations between developed and developing countries, be it in the area of decision-making, access to markets and technology or financial support, our aims are not likely to be realized as early as they should.

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In my own country, the new Five Year Plan is based on the concept of growth with social justice, with the emphasis on the alleviation of rural poverty and the creation of employment, especially in the rural areas.

Just as we have determined the new emphasis in our developmental planning, each developing country is striving to reach the goals it has set for itself through its own policies and priorities within the context of its own social, economic and internal political structure.

We cannot, therefore, Mr. Chairman, accept a situation where the policies of the developed countries continue to impede on our efforts towards self-reliance and at the same time seek to introduce global priorities which would impose alien patterns of development on us.

NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER

This, Mr. Chairman, is of particular relevance in the context of the preparations for the Third Development Decade. At the international level, there are certain fundamental objectives which should form the

basis of our efforts. The primary goal should be to create conditions which would bring about the establishment of the New International Economic Order. The developed countries have a special responsibility in ensuring the restructuring of existing international economic relations, towards this end. Equally important are the efforts of developing countries to co-operate with each other for their mutual benefit and the achievement of collective self-reliance. Such co-operation would strengthen the collective bargaining power of developing countries in international negotiations.

In our view, Mr. Chairman, the new development strategy should be free from external involvement in the social, economic and political processes of developing countries. Alternative approaches to international cooperation for development such as the "basic needs" strategy, being vigorously promoted by some developed countries should be eschewed.

I am only too keenly aware that progress in the implementation of the work programme is painfully slow. While we recognize that the benefits of mutual co-operation will be ours, the greatest obstacles to such co-operation also exist within ourselves. Apart from the wide gaps in information of our own needs and capabilities which ties us to our colonial pasts, unless we are prepared to concretely implement programmes and projects of co-operation amongst ourselves, our dependence on the developed countries is bound to continue.

I do not speak of autarchy but of self-reliance. I also do not speak of one group of developing countries imposing their models of development on the other developing countries. Co-operation amongst ourselves is a two-way process and has to be a joint effort, not only by our Governments but through our institutions and organizations for the ultimate welfare of the lot of our peoples.

Let me hasten to add that some movement has indeed taken place and that technicians have begun their consultations on ways and means to implement specific programmes - in the field of finance and monetary co-operation, in the areas of fisheries and most concretely, in the projects on trade, transport and industry which has begun to carry out valuable work in this field. More action is planned in specific sections for the near future.

For its part, India has agreed to host the Non-Aligned Centre for Science and Technology. We shall do our best, with the help of all other interested non-aligned countries, to ensure that this Centre becomes a focal point for a network of institutions in developing countries engaged in research and application of science and technology for development.

My country also proposes to hold a meeting of the coordinating countries in science and technology in the near future. We are also in the midst of preparations for a meeting of National Consultancy Organizations of developing countries, with a view to establishing the Project Development Facility.

Our task in Belgrade should be to assess the over-all progress made in the implementation of decisions of the Colombo Summit. If necessary, we may have to identify the factors which impede the speedy implementation of the Action Programme and find ways and means of removing these obstacles.

Mr. Chairman, the Non-aligned countries have created for themselves a vision of

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world, a prosperous world built on co-operating among ourselves and with the developed countries. It is now universally accepted that no country or group of countries can live in isolation in an inherently interdependent world. It is, therefore, imperative that this political realization be translated into concrete programme and steps which would lead to the establishment of the New International Economic Order.

Many challenging tasks lie ahead of us in the crisis-ridden world of today. The very size and strength of our great and growing movement casts upon us a great responsibility. Let us deliberate and decide upon issues confronting us in a spirit of harmony and co-operation. The path is not easy. But let us remember that our diversity is indeed our strength, our vigilance is our security and our solidarity is the key to our strength and success.

INDIA CUBA SRI LANKA YUGOSLAVIA AFGHANISTAN USA PERU SOUTH AFRICA NAMIBIA ANGOLA ZIMBABWE ISRAEL LEBANON ETHIOPIA MALI SOMALIA CYPRUS RUSSIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: May 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

INDIA AND ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Shri Vajpayee's Greetings on 15th Anniversary of OAU

The Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, has sent the following message of greetings to the Secretary-General of the Organisation of the African Unity, on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Organisation of the African Unity:

Excellency, on behalf of the Government and people of India and on my behalf, I have great pleasure in extending our fraternal greetings to the people of Africa on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity.

During the last fifteen years, OAU has achieved commendable success in eradication of all forms of colonialism from Africa. The Government and people of India will continue to support these efforts of the OAU. We look forward to the day when the remaining vestiges of colonialism and racialism in Southern Africa would be eliminated and the membership of the OAU would be complete.

OAU has also made significant strides in developing PAN-African activities and cooperation in various functional fields. India will be happy to explore with OAU and its member States possibilities of strengthening mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields of human endeavour particularly those relating to education, culture, science and technology.

Africa is passing through a critical phase when it is necessary that African unity and solidarity should be maintained and the problems in the continent be resolved effectively through regional mechanism of OAU and based on the principles of its charter. We sincerely hope that the member States of OAU would remain firmly anchored to the solemn principles enshrined in its charter, including the affirmation of a policy of nonalignment with regard to all blocs both in letter and spirit.

We wish the OAU all successes and godspeed in its present and future endeavours. Please accept, Excellency, our best wishes for the continued success of OAU and the renewed assurances of our full support and cooperation.

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INDIA USA

Date: May 01, 1978

Volume No

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INDIA AND ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Shri Kundu's Presidential Address

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 30, 1978 when the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Samarendra Kundu, presided over the 'Africa Day' celebrations organised by the Indian Centre for Africa of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations in collaboration with Dean and Heads of African Missions in New Delhi Speaking on the occasion, Shri Kundu said:

Distinguished Dean and Heads of African Missions in New Delhi, Secretary, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Excellencies. Ladies and Gentlemen, the birth of the Organisation of African Unity fifteen years ago was an event of outstanding importance for the African people and for the international community. It had for us in the Indian Sub-Continent a particular significance as Africa is our sister continent, many member-states of which are linked to us by the Indian Ocean and all the members of which belong to the fraternity of the non-aligned group. We were particularly happy that the affirmation of a policy of non-alignment with regard to all blocs was solemnly enshrined as a guiding principle in the OAU Charter.

The Organisation of African Unity has a solid record of achievements during the last fifteen years of its existence. Its contribution to the liberation struggle in the African Continent against colonialism, racial discrimination and economic exploitation is well known. In fact as against 32 members of OAU when it was founded, its membership has now swollen to 49 members. The liberation movements in Zimbabwe. Namibia and Azania are now converging and acquiring such momentum that before long the last vestiges of colonialism and racialism would also be eliminated. At this stage, I should recall that the Father of our Nation. Mahatma Gandhi, started his non-violent crusade against racial discrimination in South Africa at the turn of the last century before he began his long and arduous struggle to lead the Indian people to freedom. It was India which first came to the United Nations to internationalise the campaign against racial discrimination. I should like to assure our African brethren of our full support and help not only in their liberation struggle against colonial rule but also against the

monstrosity of racialism and apartheid which is a crime against humanity and a sear on the conscience of the international community.

The two most important items on the African agenda for 1978 are the questions of Zimbabwe and Namibia. As regards Zimbabwe, the Organisation of African Unity has recognised Patriotic Front as the main liberation movement. We are glad to know that the leaders of the Patriotic Front are displaying necessary flexibility and are prepared to negotiate on transitional arrangements leading to majority rule in Zimbabwe. We in India are in constant touch with Frontline States and Patriotic Front on this important matter. Political, economic and diplomatic pressure has to be maintained for convening the all parties conference where a consensus could be reached on transitional arrangements leading to elections on the basis of one man one vote and setting up of majority rule on the basis of Anglo-US proposal. We have unequivocally condemned the socalled internal settlement reached in Salisbury. We would like unity to be forged amongst nationalist leaders in Zimbabwe so that effective pressure is brought on Smith and his followers for establishing authentic and genuine majority rule. Should, however, the latter not see the writing on the wall, the intensification of armed struggle for bringing about independence and freedom in Zimbabwe would become inevitable, and in that case Patriotic Front would be entitled to receive fullest possible cooperation and assistance from all members of OAU and other supporters in the non-aligned and developing world.

The obduracy of the South African regime has been the single most important factor in preventing a negotiated settlement of the Namibian question. We deplore and condemn the recent South African raid into Angola when innocent civilians and SWAPO refugees were killed. One cannot forget the fact that this dastardly act was perpetuated right at the time when SWAPO was willing to resume negotiations on the basis of five-power proposals. SWAPO has made several concessions and has shown a flexible ap-

proach on the matter as against South African approach characterised by unreason-

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able demands and unacceptable conditions. The international community is unanimous in asking for the withdrawal of South Africa. from Namibia. If a peaceful and negotiated arrangement cannot be found, then there would be no alternative for SWAP0, the only liberation movement in Namibia. to intensify its struggle. India would continue to render support to SWAPO so as to enable it to achieve its genuine goals and objectives. We also intend to observe anti-apartheid year in India and are in the process of finalising the programme of various activities which would be undertaken in this connection. No fight in the defence of human rights can be considered complete unless the affront to human dignity and equality as symbolised by apartheid is done away with.

We in India note that OAU has made tremendous contribution not only in bringing about emancipation of African territories which were under colonial yoke but also in the other set of its purposes as stated in the OAU Charter which refer to coordination and harmonisation of general policies of its member States in the fields of political, diplomatic, economic, cultural, health, nutritional, scientific and technical cooperaton.

Unfortunately, of late, OAU has been confronted with various regional problems. What is more disturbing is that lack of effective timely action has, in certain cases, resulted in foreign military involvement which would render the task of OAU more difficult if not impossible. If intra-African disputes are not resolved early, African unity would get weakened, the attention would be deviated away from the real issues in Southern Africa and the Non-aligned movement as a whole would get adversely affected. This is too grim a prospect and we should bend our energies so that the present situation is not let adrift. We believe that the purpose and principles as embodied in the OAU Charter are as valid today, if not more, than when conceived 15 years ago. We should like to express the hope that there would be a renewed thrust in the policies and actions of the member States of OAU for promoting unity and solidarity amongst themselves. There is also the supreme need at the present moment for strict observance, implementation and upholding of the principles enshrined in the OAU Charter by the African States with a view to avoid prospects of external military involvement in the continent of Africa which is threatening to undermine their real sovereignty and non-aligned status. In this connection, I would particularly like to refer to the principles embodied in OAU Charter relating to respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each State and for its inalienable, right to independent existence, and concerning peaceful settlement of disputes by negotiation. mediation, conciliation or arbitration. The OAU principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of States needs to be adhered fully in actual practice.

India and OAU members have been cooperating together with other developing countries in the Group of 77 in their efforts to bring about a new international economic order. India believes that an important element of this cooperation is the building up of collective self-reliance among developing countries. We should examine carefully how this cooperation can be given content while finalising the strategy for the third development decade. India attaches a great deal of importance to the speedy and full implementation of the action programme for cooperation among non-aligned and developing countries as worked out in Non-aligned and U.N. Fora. We attach a great deal of priority to the expansion of our relations with OAU and its member States in educational, cultural, scientific, economic and technological fields. I should recall here the recent decision whereby we would be hosting the Nonaligned Centre for science and Technology in India. We would be happy to cooperate with OAU in ensuring that Africa derives maximum benefits from its cooperation with India and other Non-aligned countries in this vital field where we have something to offer because of our large reservoir of scientific and technical manpower.

I am very glad to know that the African Ambassadors in New Delhi regularly meet and exchange views. We would be happy to examine with them and through their Chairman concrete suggestions for strengthening cooperation between India and OAU.

On behalf of the Government of India, and on my own behalf, I take this occasion to express our best wishes for the success of the OAU in its tasks and for ever-expanding cooperation between India and OAU in all field.

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INDIA USA NAMIBIA ZIMBABWE SOUTH AFRICA ANGOLA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: May 01, 1978

Volume No

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NORWAY

Textile Agreement

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 2, 1978 on an agreement between India and Norway:

India has entered into an agreement with Norway regarding exports of textiles. The Agreement was signed, here today, by Shri R. D. Thapar, Commerce Secretary, on behalf of India and by Mr. Per Gulowsen, Ambassador of Norway in India, on behalf of Norway.

The present Agreement is valid for a period of four years from January 1, 1978 to December 31, 1981. Similar agreements were entered into earlier with the EEC and the USA. These agreements cover three bases - cotton, wool and manmade fibres - and

the items of restraint are garments, woven bed-linen, gloves, ties, head-gears and similar articles. The Agreement provides for restraint levels for 11 (eleven) items in respect of each of the 4 years; imports of the remaining 14 items which are not subject to quantitative limits and are subject to a system of administrative control; and consultations between the two Governments if export of any of the products not subject to individual restraints exceeds certain limits.

The Textile Restraint Arrangement with Norway dates back to 1974 when Norway had imposed unilateral quotas. The present agreement with Norway is the result of the two rounds of discussions held in Oslo and Geneva in January 1978.

NORWAY INDIA USA SWITZERLAND

Date: May 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Trade Talks in Islamabad

The following is the text of a press release issued -in New Delhi on May 9, 1978:

The Commerce Secretaries of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Government of the Republic of India met in Islamabad from the 6th to 8th May, 1978, to review trade relations between the two countries. The talks were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

The two sides acknowledged the need for strengthening mutual commercial relations and agreed to promote bilateral trade. The Pakistan side explained that the prevailing regulatory mechanism governing Ex-

ternal Trade in either country was not suited to the conduct of bilateral trade in accordance with the principle of equality, mutual benefit and diversification which formed the basis of resumption of trade between the two countries. The Indian side, while explaining its view that trade could he conducted on the pattern followed hitherto, expressed its readiness to cooperate in solving the problems put forward by the Pakistan side.

In recognition of the right of an importing country to seek an orderly marketing arrangement, the two sides considered various regulatory measures which could be adopted to bring about the necessary improvements in the nature and direction of trade. They agreed in principle that indicative lists of goods and commodities in which trade would be in mutual interest would be exchanged. They further decided to resume their talks after a brief adjournment.

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PAKISTAN INDIA USA

Date: May 01, 1978

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SWEDEN

Indo-Swedish Agreement on Institute of Forest Management

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on May 11, 1978 an Indo-Swedish agreement on Institute of Forest Management:

An agreement providing for Swedish aid to India in the form of consultancy, fellowships, books for developing the Indian Institute of Forest Management was signed

in New Delhi on May 11, 1978. The agreement was signed by the Chief of Swedish International Development Agency, Mr. Jarl Tranaeus, on behalf of Sweden Government and by Shri B. P. Srivastava, Inspector General of Forests and Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture on behalf of Government of India.

An Indian Institute of Forest Management has been set up by the Government of India in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. The Swedish aid is worth Rs. 5.50 million in the form of consultancy, fellowships and books.

Indian Institute of Forest Management would provide a continuous programme of training, research and consultancy in forest management for the entire forest system. The need for developing an institute of this kind to attend entirely to business aspects of forest- management was long felt and with the assistance coming from the Sweden, Indian forestry has moved one step forward in its development efforts. The Government of Sweden has taken a great interest in promoting forest development activities in India, and the present project is one of the many that are being assisted by the Swedish Government. Government of India has already set up a Programme Office to implement the project.

SWEDEN INDIA USA

Date: May 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

SWITZERLAND

Trade Delegation Calls on Shri Mohan Dharia

The following is the text of a press re-

lease issued in New Delhi on May 5, 1978 on the Indo-Swiss Joint Commission Meeting:

Switzerland has shown interest in imports of Indian items like carpets, coffee, small and hand tools, leather and leather products, sports goods and garments. This was communicated to Shri Mohan Dharia, Union Minister for Commerce, Civil Supplies & Cooperation, when a Swiss trade delegation led by Minister Benedikt von Tscharner, Federal Division of Commerce, called on him, in New Delhi on May 5, 1978.

The three-day meeting of the Indo-Swiss Joint Commission also concluded today. The Indian delegation to the talks was led by Shri T. V. Antony, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce.

The two delegations discussed the possibility of cooperation in the fields of leather. Shri Dharia was informed that the Swiss delegation would try to send a group of leather experts to advise the Indian leather industry about the fashions and requirements of Swiss consumers. In this connection a link has been established between the Trade

225 Development Authority of India and the Swiss Office of Trade Development.

During the discussions, the Commerce Minister pointed out that there was a lot of complementarity in the economic relations between the two countries, and mutually beneficial projects for economic cooperation could be identified. The two delegations also discussed items like industrial collaboration including joint ventures in third countries and multilateral issues like GSP and the Common Fund.

The total trade turnover between India and Swiss has increased from Rs. 200 million in 1972-73 to nearly Rs. 1200 million in 1976-77.

The structure of exports to Switzerland is narrow in range and small in volume. Besides silver, which dominated exports for the first time during 1976, the other major items

of exports are refined precious stones garments, knotted carpets, coffee, jute goods, dried vegetables (morels), opium, tea, organic chemicals, foot-wear, household linen essential oils and coir.

On the imports side, the major items are machinery and mechanical appliances, electrical equipment and machinery, organic chemicals, precious stones, instruments and parts, pharmaceutical products, synthetic organic dye-stuffs and plastics.

Till December, 1977, 306 Joint Ventures with Swiss Collaboration have been approved. The items covered by these approvals include textile machinery and textile processing, machine tools, electrical goods and components, welding materials and equipments, drugs and pharmaceuticals and various items of chemicals, watches and clocks.

SWITZERLAND INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC USA

Date: May 01, 1978

Volume No

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YUGOSLAVIA

Mr. Minie's Visit to New Delhi

The official spokesman of the Ministry of External affairs made the following statement in New Delhi on May 5, 1978:

There was a session lasting two hours on May 5, between two delegations headed by Foreign Minister Minic and Foreign Minister Vajpayee. They had a brief exchange of views about decision reached in New York by the members of the non-aligned Coordination Bureau to hold the next meeting of the Bureau in Havana from May 15, to 20, 1978.

After this the two Foreign Ministers moved on to the situation in the Horn of Africa. They had a fairly extensive exchange of views on the subject. Mr. Minic informed Shri Vajpayee of the results of the various contacts Yugoslavia has had in the past few weeks with the various parties concerned in the conflict in the Horn of Africa. Both Ministers agreed that the parties concerned should be advised and persuaded to choose the path of negotiation and seek peaceful solution to their disputes.

Foreign Minister Minic then gave a detailed account of his visits to Vietnam, Kampuchea and Thailand. He also informed Shri Vajpayee about the conference held in Belgrade to review the implementation of the Helsinki Declaration.

Later, Mr. Minic called on the Prime Minister and was with him for about forty-five minutes. He conveyed the warm regards and good wishes from President Tito to Prime Minister Desai who reciprocated the sentiments and requested Mr. Minic to convey his warm good wishes to President Tito. There was a lot of reminiscing about President Tito's visit to India and the very close and frequent meetings and contacts between the leaders of the two countries over the years. Prime Minister Desai and Foreign Minister Minic noted that the prospects of further intensifying and expanding their bilateral cooperation, economic and commercial,

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were bright and every effort should be made to strengthen it further. Mr. Minic also revealed that his Prime Minister will be attending the Special Session of the General Assembly on Disarmament.

Then they discussed the situation in Southern Africa, touched upon the recent developments in Afghanistan, relations with China and the question of transforming the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace.

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Date: May 01, 1978

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AFGHANISTAN BELGIUM USA BULGARIA GERMANY INDIA SWEDEN SYRIA THAILAND

Date: Jun 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

AFGHANISTAN

Now Trade and Payments Agreement

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on June 26, 1978 on the signing of new Tarde and Payments Agreement between India and Afghanistan:

India and Afghanistan signed in Kabul on June 24, 1978, a new Trade and Payments Agreement which provides for a free trade between the two countries in free convertible currency. This Agreement replaces the one signed between the two countries in September, 1975 and which is scheduled to expire in September, 1978.

The Agreement was signed by Shri P. M. S. Malik, Director in the Ministry of Commerce on behalf of India and by Mr. G. H. Bayar, President, Foreign Trade in the Afghan Ministry of Commerce on behalf of his country.

The new Agreement do away with the modified system of barter trade agreed to by the two countries in 1975 under which

imports from Afghanistan were counter balanced by exports from India of agreed items. Trade under this system was to be in rupee currency.

The new Agreement provides for a free trade in free convertible currency and trade flow between the two countries will be permitted to find its level based on supply and demand as well as competitiveness in their respective markets.

During 1977-78 (April - September) India's exports to Afghanistan are estimated to be of the value of Rs. 59.4 million and im, ports rom Afghanistan Are estimated to be of the value of Rs. 106.1 million. In 1976-77, India had exported goods worth Rs. 216 million to Afghanistan and had imported from that country goods worth Rs. 268.4 million.

India's main exports to Afghanistan comprised of tea, crude vegetable materials, textile fabrics, cotton manufactures, machinery, transport equipment, and bicycles & bicycle parts.

India's main imports from Afghanistan comprised of dried fruits, fresh fruits, asofoetida and liquorice.

AFGHANISTAN INDIA MALI RUSSIA

Date: Jun 01, 1978

Volume No

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BELGIUM

Prime Minister's Speech at Banquet in Brussels

The following is the text of a press release of the speech delivered by the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, in Brussels at a banquet given in his honour by the Prime

Minister of Belgium:

I am grateful to you for the warm words of friendship with which you have welcomed me to your historic city. I would also like to express on my own behalf and on behalf of my delegation our deep appreciation of the excellent arrangements that have been made for our visit at such short notice. Our regret is that our stay is far too brief and that it would not be possible for us to see some-

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thing of your beautiful countryside and the industries for which your country is famous.

Belgian resistance to foreign invaders on so many occasions in its history has always evoked our admiration. It speaks for the grit, the resourcefulness and the dauntless courage of the people of Belgium that every time they had to face a foreign invader they not only stood up to him but they also, after the holocaust was over, took no time in repairing the damage done and resuming the normal course of life at a tempo and in a quality as though they had left the painful memories far behind. Whether in art and craft or industry, Belgium has held its own against competition and has built up markets for itself on the basis of its own quality and distinctiveness. In recent years it has played a notable part in pioneering the idea of West European unity and translating it into institutions which have gathered strength as years passed. It has also taken significant steps in enlarging the areas of liberty in the world. These are all achievements which hold out hopes for a bright future for your country and I am quite sure that your influence in the world counsels will always be exercised in the cause of enlightenment. liberty and peace.

We were recently privileged to receive your Minister for Foreign Trade as the leader of a commercial delegation to India and we had very useful discussions and exchange of views.

As Your Excellency would appreciate, India has embarked on a plan of economy reoriented to the need and interests of the overwhelmingly large rural sector with a view to balancing our future economic development against the increased attention which industrial and urban development has secured during the last two decades. This reorientation necessarily implies some readjustment of the pattern of our foreign trade in which greater emphasis would have to be placed on agro-based industries, particularly in the small-scale sector, and their products, We realise the difficulties through which developed countries like yours are passing in the present phase of economic growth. I am quite sure that, with meaningful efforts on both sides, developed and developing countries can find common ground for assisting each other in dealing with the economic malaise that affects both.

As Your Excellency would appreciate, India has been since long dedicated to the policy of peace and non-alignment. We fervently believe that there can be no limit to the enlargement of areas of friendship and goodwill in international relations. Motivated by these convictions we have embarked on cultivating friendships in an increasing measure with other countries, both far and near. I am happy to inform Your Excellency that we have already built many bridges of understanding with our neighbours and in all our international discussions and meetings we are seeking to translate these ideas into practice. We are convinced that detente must be the rule of international life and must cross geographical frontiers of States and continents so as to cover the entire globe. This is the only way in which we can ultimately secure peace and prosperity and general disarmament which is indispensable to achieving both.

I once again express my thanks to you, Mr. Prime Minister, for your generous hospitality and hope that you will soon be with us and promote further strengthening of the ties of friendship and cooperation between our two countries. I would now request all present to rise and di-ink a toast to the health of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Belgium, to His Excellency and Madame Tindemans, to the prosperity and happiness of the people of Belgium and to Indo-Belgian friendship.

BELGIUM USA INDIA

Date: Jun 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

BULGARIA

Joint Commission Protocol Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on June 5, 1978 on the signing of the Joint Commission protocol between India and Bulgaria:

The protocol of agreed minutes of the 4th Session of the Indo-Bulgarian Joint Commission was signed in Sofia on June 2 by the Ministers and Co-Chairman, Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala of India and Mr. Chakrov of Bulgaria. Both Ministers expressed great satisfaction at the successful results of the Session and considered the protocol as a major step forward in the development of bilateral cooperation between the two countries. The protocol envisages further intensive collaboration in the development of agro-industrial complexes in India and trade between the two countries. The protocol also provides for cooperation in other fields like electronics and chemicals. The protocol refers to joint venture collaboration in scientific fields and marketing of agro-industrial produce. One immediate result of the new protocol is the Bulgarian Agreement to increase the quantity of fertilizers to be supplied to India this year.

BULGARIA INDIA USA

Date: Jun 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

DM 290 Million Aid to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on June 27, 1978 on the signing of an agreement in Bonn for German aid to India:

Indo-German Government negotiations oil economic cooperation took place in Bonn from 19-23 June, 1978. The Indian delegation was headed by Shri R. N. Malhotra, Additional Secretary in the Indian Ministry of Finance, and the German delegation by Dr. Franz Klamser, Ministerial Dirigent in the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation. The conclusion of the negotiations, which were held in a friendly atmosphere of mutual trust, was marked by the signing of an agreement for DM 290 million (Rs. 122.38 crores) in financial assistance for the Indian budgetary year 1978-79. On behalf of the German Foreign Office the agreement was signed by Ministerial Director Dr. H. W. Lautenschlager.

An agreement for DM 70 million (Rs. 29.54 crores) in commodity aid had already been signed in April this year thus bringing the total German financial assistance to India. in 1978 to DM 360 million (Rs. 151.92 crores), the same sum as in the previous year. In addition, a sum of approximately DM 20 million (Rs. 8.44 crores) is available in 1978 for bilateral Indo-German technical cooperation projects.

It was agreed that in selecting projects for development cooperation, the attention should be concentrated primarily on the following areas: employment, basic needs, rural development, irrigation, energy and improvement of utilisation of existing capacities.

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GERMANY INDIA USA LATVIA

Date: Jun 01, 1978

Volume No

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SWEDEN

Development Assistance Agreement

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on June 22, 1978 on the signing of an agreement in Stockholm for Swedish Development Assistance of Rs. 50.37 crores:

The Agreement on Development Cooperation providing Swedish Aid of Rs. 50.37 crores (Skr. 270 million) to India for 1978-79 was signed in Stockholm, on June 16, 1978 by Mr. Sten-Olof Doos, Deputy Director General, SIDA and Shri R. N. Malhotra, Additional Secretary, Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of their respective Governments.

Out of the assistance of Rs. 50.37 crores (Skr. 270 million) an amount of Rs. 19.59 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. 18.66 crores (Skr. 100 million) has been made in the agreement to finance imports of goods and services from Sweden. As in the past, this amount is -to be utilised for the import of bulk commodi-

ties and capital goods and services from Sweden.

The Agreement provides for technical assistance to the extent of Rs. 12.12 crores (Skr. 65 million). This amount will be utilised for the implementation of several projects in the field of family welfare, health, fishing, forestry, export promotion etc.

This development assistance from Sweden is fully on a grant basis.

An Agreement was also signed between the two Governments in Stockholm whereby the Government of Sweden wrote off all past debts on earlier credits from Sweden. By this agreement about Rs. 100.74 crores (Skr. 540 million) on debts from past credits from Sweden have been written off.

SWEDEN INDIA USA

Date: Jun 01, 1978

Volume No

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SYRIA

Indo-Syrian Agreement on Air Services

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on June 3, 1978 on the air agreement between India and Syria:

India and Syria on June 3, 1978 initialled an air services agreement which permits Syrian Arab Airline to operate two services to India, one each to Bombay and Delhi through two intermediate points. Reciprocally, Air India have been given the rights to operate two services to Syria through two intermediate points to Damascus.

The Syrian Arab Airline is at present operating a once weekly service via Dubai to Delhi. Air India do not at present operate to Damascus. The Syrian Arab Airline and Air India have also the right to operate services beyond Bombay and Damascus respectively to points that may be agreed upon.

Syria not being a party to the International Air Services Transit Agreement, rights have also been acquired in favour of Air India to fly across Syria on their services to U.K. and U.S.A.

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The air services agreement will come formally into force after it is signed and Instruments of Ratification are exchagned between the two Governments. However, pending formal signing and ratification of the agreement, the terms of the agreement have been given effect to as from June 3, 1978 by a separate Memorandum of Understanding which the leaders of the two delegations signed.

The two airlines also entered into a commercial arrangement which was approved by the two delegations on behalf of their respective aeronautical authorities.

The agreement of June 3, 1978 followed talks between the Civil Aviation delegations of the Government of the Republic of Syria and the Government of India, which commenced on May 30, 1978. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Bhagwan S. Gidwani, Director General of Civil Aviation, and the Syrian Arab delegation was led by Gen. Antar, Director General of Civil Aviation, Syria. The talks were held in a cordial atmosphere.

After signing the agreement, the leaders of the two delegations said that conclusion of the agreement was indicative of the growing friendly relationship between India and Syria.

SYRIA INDIA USA UNITED KINGDOM

Date: Jun 01, 1978

Volume No

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THAILAND

Agreement on Seabed Boundaries

The following is the text of a press release isued in New Delhi on June 22, 1978 on the signing of agreements on Seabed boundaries:

An agreement was signed in New Delhi on June 22, 1978 between India and Thailand on the Delimitation of Seabed Boundary between them in the Andaman Sea by the Foreign Ministers of these countries. The Agreement seeks to settle permanently the limits of the areas in the Andaman Sea within which the respective Governments of these countries shall exercise sovereign rights.. The boundary established by this Agreement consists of straight lines connecting seven points, which generally follow the median line principle. The length of the boundary under this Agreement is 94 nautical miles.

Earlier in 1974, the Governments of India and Indonesia established a boundary of the cotinental shelves of the two countries in the Andaman Sea. and the Indian Ocean. Subsequently, in 1975 Thailand and Indonesia established a Seabed boundary between them in the Andaman Sea. Once the seabed boundary between India and Thailand in the Andaman Sea was also settled, the next stage would be to settle the Trijunction Point between the three seabed boundaries between India, Indonesia and Thailand. This was also negotiated simultaneously by the three countries concerned, as a result of which a Tripartite Agreement was also signed today by the Foreign Ministers of India, Indonesia and Thailand establishing a Trijunction Point and extending the three boundaries to that point.

This Trijunction is roughly equidistant between the three countries, being roughly 100 nautical miles from the nearest point on their respective coasts.

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THAILAND INDIA INDONESIA USA

Date: Jun 01, 1978

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UNITED KINGDOM

Shri Morarji Desai's Address at Banquet

The following is the text of a press release of the speech by the Prime Minister Shri Morarji Desai at a banquet given in London on June 6, 1978 in his honour by the British Prime Minister, Mr. Callaghan:

I am very happy to be here again, just a year after my last visit. This is the time when London is at its brightest, basking in the balmy summer air, belying unkind rumours about the English weather. My delegation and I are grateful to you for your warm welcome and kind hospitality.

Mr. Prime Minister, I am delighted to recall your visit to India last January. You made a great personal contribution to the relations between India and Britain. A new atmosphere was inaugurated by that visit, a new tone of cordiality in the way India and Britain regard each other. Our dialogue and exchanges have also been infused with more positive content. We talked about world problems in which we both have a profound moral interest - and we did so helpfully and meaningfully and with perfect confidence that neither would take the other amiss or attribute motives to the other. It is a

privilege to have the opportunity of consultations with such a friend and I make no secret of my esteem for your candid and sincere views at all times.

As you know, the tour on which I am embarked will take me to the UN Special Session on Disarmament and to Washington. Britain has an intimate interest in both these destinations. I am therefore in the fortunate position of being able to seek your counsel en route, while also enjoying this visit to your country.

On Southern Africa we have had serious and sincere exchanges. We are glad to have the benefit of listening to your first-hand views on the latest developments in that troubled continent. We must build on trust or succumb to the tensions of mistrust. We must win the confidence of the people most concerned by making it clear that we shall never countenance any arrangement contingent on racial dominance. If we continue to work with patience and sincerity we shall succeed in bringing the parties concerned together for a negotiated and peaceful settlement. We cannot afford to be disheartened by temporary setbacks or impatient resorts to violence by those who believe in force. Often it is the unenviable lot of negotiators to be misunderstood. You, MT. Prime Minister, have had your share of it and still you have persisted in your helpful endeavours and your Foreign Secretary has shown commendable patience and resourcefulness. I have no doubt that in the glory of the final outcome, all this would not be forgotten.

Mr. Prime Minister, both our countries have had a long history of tolerance. It is a value which has given strength and variety to our different traditions. In the post-war era, Britain has had to make some painful readjustments. It is a tribute to your unering democratic instinct and your characteristic staying power that Britain has come through these challenges - economic, social and political - with a genius for adaptation which was at the same time faithful to your spirit of good-humoured forbearance and libearlism. In these transitions your country has been fortunate in its leaders, to whom

I would like to pay my sincere tribute.

We rejoice in Britain's revived confidence and trust that your economy will grow into fresh strength, giving you again the sinews for constructive cooperation with countries less fortunate in circumstances or less well-endowed in resources. Britain's role in Europe is now assured. Its sense of responsibility and experience in international diplomacy will ensure that its voice will be heard in world counsels. The goodwill you have displayed towards India and other developing countries after their independence is a credit to your people. We trust that in the councils of the European Community and in larger forums, that ardent concern and interest will have an influence on other partners, for the good of the world community as a whole.

Mr. Prime Minister, may I refer to the presence in Britain of several thousands of

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countrymen of Indian origin, whether of Indian or British citizenship. Their migration to your country is part of our joint social and economic history. They have chosen in many cases, not without response to the needs of your country, to seek their livelihood and future in Britain. We wish them to continue living here as established citizens or citizens in the making. They have made their mark as productive members of your society and this is as it should be - we are proud that they are making their contribution in the service of Britain in diverse ways. We are certain that, if not today, then in course of time they will get mixed in the mainstream of British life. I do want them to feel as citizens of this country and to work for it and not to turn to their own country of origin. We have confidence in the British people, who are, like our own people, the composite of untold ethnic amalgamations. We shall cooperate with you most earnestly to see that the natural sympathy and mutual esteem between the British and the Indian peoples are unsullied by incitements to bigotry, prejudice and violence of which, regrettably, there has been some evidence.

Mr. Prime Minister, let me also say how much we all appreciated your visit to Ahmedabad when I had the privilege of showing something of constructive work on Gandhian lines. We feel earnestly and sincerely that that way of life is in the circumstances of our country the only means of solving our twin problems of rural poverty and backwardness, these unfortunate legacies of history. We have to deal with these problems in all their dimensions and within the time available, to us before destructive philosophies born of discontent overtake us. Here in this Metropolitan city we cannot have the feel of that problem or the need of its urgent solution. It was therefore in the fitness of things that you made a gesture during your visit through an appreciable contribution towards village uplift. I have no doubt that such evidence of Britain's interest in our rural reconstruction will help further to strengthen the ties that bind us both historically and as fellow-members of a great Commonwealth.

You have spoken of the Indo-British Conference held in January 1978 in Delhi soon after your visit. It is also our feeling that such meetings between private citizens from both countries reflect and enhance the value of our bilateral friendship at the governmental level. I am glad that -both of us are in complete accord on this matter.

I now invite all present at this splendid table in this historic house to drink a toast to the health of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

UNITED KINGDOM USA INDIA

Date: Jun 01, 1978

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UNITED NATIONS

The following is the address by the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, to the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Disarmament in New York on June 9, 1978:

Mr. President, we have met here at a crucial period of the world's history. Nuclear armament, despite its dangers and the threat of extinction to the whole world, has been escalated to a stage when even a small part of its weaponry can destroy the whole planet: Conventional arms and the armed forces of the world have attained astronomical proportion and numbers. Even without nuclear armament, we have witnessed during the last war what a scale of destruction the clash of these arms and forces can bring about. We in India believe that this Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly on Disarma-

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ment has not met a day too soon and I bring to this august Assembly the greetings and good wishes of the peace-loving people of India.

Even though the central theme of this session is disarmament, it is also concerned with setting mankind firmly on the path of peace, which is also the path of sanity. I have no doubt, Mr. President, that you will impart to its deliberations the patience, the strength of purpose and the clarity of vision that this momentous task demands. I offer my felicitations to you, Mr. President, on being called upon to preside over the session.

Our sages long ago envisaged an ideal which is in the vedic benediction:

(May all people be happy, May all people be without jealousies; May all people perceive the good, May no one get sorrow and misery.) It is this ennobling vision of the world of happiness and contentment which I have always borne within me ever since I came in contact with the philosophy and personality of Mahatma Gandhi. It is a vision which we all should cherish and should strive to turn into a reality, not in the distant future but in our own time. This pre-supposes an atmosphere in which, to quote the Biblical saying: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruninghooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

The destructive potential of modern weapons used during the Second World War made the world fearful of war and crave for peace. At such a moment of realization was the United Nations founded. Almost simultaneously, India achieved freedom through non-violent means under the unique leadership of Mahatma Gandhi which paved the way for the peaceful liberation of most of the nations from the colonial domination during the last three decades. Viewed against this background and in the context of the near unanimity of world opinion, I believe that the time is propitious and the prospects of banishing war at present are brighter than at any time before.

It is a sad thought that since times immemorial, the history of societies has always been interspersed with the history of wars. It is even sadder to reflect that, far from being condemned, the warlike attributes and image of conquering heroes have been exalted and glorified. The literature of every language, and children's books even now, are replete with accounts of human slaughter in battles and wars. Some latter day conquerors have even tried to seek comfort in the theory of evolution through natural selection and survival of the fittest to provide plausible scientific support to the cult of genocide. Refinements of such arguments - racial, material and cultural - are still presented to us with varying degrees of sophistry. War had been an accepted instrument of advancing national interests in the past, but it no longer commands the same

QUEST FOR PEACE:

The current earnest quest for peace, however, seems to stem from fear of total annihilation. It is my firm conviction that fear is the worst, everlasting and demoralizing influence on man. It should not, therefore, be the fear of war but the love of peace which should rule our conduct. International power politics, however, appears to be merely the pursuit of selfish group interests bringing to the surface much that is not noble in man - his pettiness, his jealousies, his suspicion of fellow men, his greed to acquire and dominate. The result is a general feeling of insecurity and fear leading to culmination in war.

Peace is not merely cessation of war, but a positive sense of identification with and concern for others. Instead of war, peace must abide in the minds of men. Little good can come of working for peace without a deep conviction that in peace alone there is human fulfilment and happiness, but even if the goal appears distant it is well worth striving for, because movement in this direction itself reduces the causes of conflict. If we all seek peace, the world will one day become a real

236 human family as embodied in our ancient saying: the whole world is one family.

END AND MEANS

In more than fifty years of public life, in office as well as in prison, may I say in all humility that I have been sustained by the conviction, imparted to me by Mahatma Gandhi, that the noblest of ends cannot but be debased by resort to evil means to achieve them. The pursuit of truth with courage and sacrifice - Satyagraha - was for Gandhiji not only an article of faith but a guide for practical action. His whole life was a testimony to the truth that the only real, and indeed the ultimate freedom, is freedom from fear. This fact has received homage from many, but has also been scoffed at as utopian or unrealistic in the grim world

of real politik. I believe that Gandhiji's message of non-violence and the innovative instrument of Satyagraha that he gave us have great relevance in our predicament as we grope for a way out of the present impasse.

If we comprehend the unique and explosive crisis we collectively encounter, we must move towards disarmament through a solemn resolve to outlaw war and settle disputes through the beneficent process of negotiations. Only so would we be true to our Charter. So long as war is regarded as legitimate, disarmament will be a chimerical illusion.

Many wars have been fought in the past because nations were ruled by the desire to acquire power and domination or material goods from others. But after every major human holocaust - whether the European wars of the French revolutionary period or the two world wars in this century - either because of temporary repentance or exhaustion - there have been attempts to build a structure of peace such as the Congress of Vienna, the League of Nations, or our own United Nations. Nevertheless, in the working of these institutions, some countries have become involved and have involved others in power politics, in canvassing for blocs, competition for spheres of influence, promotion of sales of armaments and piling up of arsenals of terror, conventional and nuclear. The much-vaunted nuclear deterrent has failed to put an end to the arms race. In fact, it has stimulated further competition involving vastly destructive weaponry. The delays and difficulties which the super-powers have experienced, in coming to an agreement on the test ban, partial or total, on limitation of nuclear armaments, and reduction of the armed strength of NATO and Warsaw Pact countries over the last 30 years, indicate the utter futility of trying to secure even partial disarmament through a policy of balancing of forces rooted in mutual suspicion and fear. The commitment to disarmament must therefore be total and without any reservation. Though in actual implementation, having regard to the hard realities of the situation, we may accept the principle of gradualness in a

time-bound programme, we must keep in view the final objective and, in a spirit of dedication to that objective, work out a non-discriminatory programme based on universal application shorn of any monopolistic feature or preferential treatment.

INDIA'S PLEDGE

In this context, I should like to refer to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty of which much has been said in this hall and outside. India is among those who have not signed this Treaty. There has been considerable misunderstanding of our motives. To remove these. I should like to declare that we yield to none in our commitment to comprehensive disarmament. We are the only country which has pledged not to manufacture or acquire nuclear weapons even if the, rest of the world did so. I solemnly reitearte that pledge before this august Assembly. In fact, we have gone further and abjured nuclear explosions even for peaceful purposes. We ask from others no more than the selfrestraint we impose upon ourselves. But our objection to the Treaty is because it is so patently discriminatory. It makes an invidious distinction between countries having nuclear weaponry and those devoted to the pursuit of nuclear research and technology entirely for peaceful purposes. Paradoxically, the Treaty gives the former a monopoly of power and confers on them freedom for commercial exploitation of nuclear knowhow, while on the latter it places restrictions which may impede peaceful development of nuclear science. Along with the Partial Test Ban Treaty, the NPT has placed the nuclear military powers in a position which enables them to continue with the utilization of nuclear energy for military purposes while telling others: "Thus far and no further."

Despite protestations of peace and despite realization of the dangers of nuclear

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warfare, the super-powers between them have conducted 254 nuclear tests during the last eight years. The weapons now with the super powers are deadlier and larger in numbers. The NPT has thus failed to arrest the

growth of nuclear armaments either qualitatively or quantitatively as anticipated.

ONUS ON USSR, USA

The history of the deliberations of this Assembly and of the various committees, particularly the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, shows that even though USSR and USA, have been active between themselves and with others, they have yet to provide a basis on which general agreements on the several aspects or disarmament could be reached. I am sure they recognize this and it is the general view that the onus for finding the solution to the problems connected with nuclear disarmament lies heavily on them. In the discharge of that responsibiltiy, suspicion and fear can have no place. This is not a matter of ideology or of narrow national interests but of an assurance against the tragedy that the erosion of such a trust may entail and which may engulf the whole world. It is in this sense that we regard nuclear armament as a threat to the very survival of humanity.

I am glad that the distinguished Presidents of USA and USSR have expressed their determination to finalize expeditiously the negotiations for the elimination of the testing of all nuclear devices, whether for development or military purposes, and for the SALT II Agreement.

OTHER AGREEMENTS

Certain other agreements, as for instance the banning of radiological weapons, are in the offing. It is in this hall that President Carter solemnly declared last year that the United States will not use nuclear weapons except in self-defence. I am also happy that President Brezhnev has spoken of the replacement of the balance of terror by the balance of trust. While these are welcome signs, holding out some hope for the future, we have yet to see these benevolent intentions translated into action. I, therefore, share the concern of the distinguished President of France over the delays in these negotiations and the limited nature of the delibrations on disarmament which have preceded the convening of this conference. My own earnest submission to this Assembly is that the problem of disarmament, particularly in the nuclear field, cannot be solved by a system of checks and balances devised as a result of bargaining. It can only be solved in a total manner keeping in view the whole of the globe and not the regions into which, presumably as a matter of political convenience or strategy, some countries seek to compartmentalize the world. It is idle to talk of regional nuclear free zones when there would still be zones which could continue to be endangered by nuclear weapons. Those who have such weapons lose nothing if some distant area is declared non-nuclear. The nations without nuclear capacity who imagine that their inclusion in such zones affords them security are suffering from a delusion We are convinced that there cannot be a limited approach to the question of freedom from nuclear threats and dangers, but the whole world should be declared a nuclear free zone.

It is now widely recognized that we have given sufficient time to the policies based on violence to work out a system of peace and security and that we have now reached a point of exhaustion. We have, therefore, to take decisive steps to turn the minds of nations away from violence as an insurance of safety and security, and take them towards non-violence and Satyagraha as means of resisting wrong.

NON-VIOLENCE

Although I have urged and will continue to urge that the ultimate solution lies in the general acceptance of the philosophy and practice of nonviolence, I believe with Gandhiji that one step is enough for me to start with but that step must mean abjuring of violence as an instrument of national policy and a substantial reduction within a prescribed time schedule in the weapons and forces of violence.

That first step in my view must consist of:

(a) A declaration that utilization of

nuclear technology for military purposes including research in weapon technology must be outlawed;

(b) Qualitative and quantitative limitations on nuclear armament and immediate freezing of present stockpile under international inspection;

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- (c) Formulation of a time-bound programme not exceeding a decade- for gradual reduction of the stockpile with a view to achieving total elimination of all nuclear weapons; and
- (d) Comprehensive test ban treaty with provision for safeguards to prevent breach of the treaty, which in my view can only be through independent inspection.

The ban should apply to atmospheric, underground and undersea tests and those in space. I would also add that the system of safeguards should be based on universality and non-discrimination. We must ensure that the system of inspection and safeguards is enforced objectively and without bringing politics into such enforcement.

For initiating a programme of disarmament in the conventional field, we should not wait until nuclear disarmament is completed. We should this very year begin efforts to work out an agreement on disarmament and drastic reduction of armed strength in the conventional field. I can assure this Assembly on behalf of my country that India will cooperate to the fullest extent in the formulation of these various programmes and will pledge itself to their implementation. In fact, we should visualize a time when the use of armed forces would not be necessary even for internal security.

HAPPINESS OF MANKIND

Mr. President, the resources of the world we live in are too precious to be wasted on destruction. Millions round the globe suffer from want, from malnutrition, from underdevelopment and from a despair about today and tomorrow. We have misused the world's wealth far too long. Let us now resolve to harness science and statesmanship to the cause of the welfare and happiness of mankind. Let us send out from here a message of succour and relief to the poor, to the infirm, to the under-nourished and enable them to draw an assurance that a better life in a better world will be theirs.

It would be too much to claim that the eves of all those people are on our Assembly. for many of them are unlettered and preoccupied with the exacting task of earning their daily bread. Even the literate citizens of the advanced countries are not in a position to restrain their Governments. But they do know that all their comfort and affluence will be wiped out if someone presses a button somewhere. This apprehension is one of the basic causes of the anguish which makes life precariously uncertain in affluent countries. especially amongst the young. All this adds to the responsibility of all of us here who represent the nations of the world, big and small, rich and poor.

GLOBAL PEACE

It is evident that no scheme of global peace and disarmament can last unless it is linked with the creation of an equitable world economic order. The nuclear powers and their close allies are also those who dominate the world's economy and seek to manage it to their own advantage. Their military and economic strength support and reinforce each other. The poorer countries have to face not only the threat of domination but also the. denial of a fair return for their produce and their labour. Disarmament could and should serve the larger purpose of ameliorating the economic injustice and deprivation to which two thirds of humanity is subject today.

Even if a small portion of the one billion dollars a day that are now spent on armament could be diverted to the benevolent service of mankind through- the spread of irrigation, the feeding of the under-nourished, to educating the unlettered, to curing and ministering to the sick and the infirm in all countries, to purifying the world's air and

water, and to enlarging the understanding of other people's cultures, it would bring the idea of a brave new world nearer achievment. I suggest that this Assembly recommend the setting up of a fund which will carry out studies in disarmament and non-violence and find out ways and means of replacing bombs and bullets by bread and books. Working for abolition of war is not only a historical necessity, not also a moral imperative, but a human duty. It is a plain matter of enlightened self-interest since it is indissolubly linked with our very survival.

POWER OF INTELLECT

If all this power of destruction came from the intellect, surely that same intellect can create something more compassionate and benevolent.

The old prophets and seers who laid the foundations of human civilization may not

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have seen the mushroom clouds of atomic bombs, but they knew the nature of power, with their capacity to see the whole tree within the tiny seed. In one of our ancient books - the Kathopanishad - there is a parable of a boy of tender years who carries on a dialogue with the God of Death who is also the God of Justice. The God offers the boy all the riches, all the pleasures and all the glory there can be. But Nachiketa, the boy, wants to know the nature of life and death and immortality. God parts with the mystery, but like all mysteries, it is not so mysterious. Victory over death, he says, comes from self-control. Likening the body to a chariot, the mind to reins, the senses to horses, and the objects of the senses to roads, he adds:

He who has no understanding and whose mind is never firmly held, his senses are unmanageable like vicious horses of a chariot. But he who has understanding and whose mind is always firmly held, his senses are under control like good horses of a chariot.

What is true of the individual is true of the world community. Man who has invented these engines of destruction is also filled with a desire for immortality. At this moment, death and life are poised as on a razor's edge. It is for us to choose what we will. Let us choose life. It is for this assembly, representing the collective wisdom of mankind, to launch a movement in the conscience of men and embark on the great adventure of survival with the determination not to compromise with truth.

Thank you.

USA INDIA AUSTRIA POLAND RUSSIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC FRANCE

Date: Jun 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Joint Communique on Prime Minister's Visit to U.S.A.

Following is the full text of India-U.S. Communique on Prime Minister Shri Morarji Desai's visit to U.S.A.:

At the invitation of President Jimmy Carter, the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Morarji Desai, paid an official visit to the United States of America between June 9-15, 1978.

In the talks the Indian participants were Shri Morarji Desai, Prime Minister, Government of India; Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India; Shri N. A. Palkhivala, Ambassador of India in Washington; Shri V. Shankar, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister; Shri J. S. Mehta, Foreign Secretary, External Affairs Ministry; and others.

The American participants were His Excellency Mr. Jimmy Carter, President of the United States of America; Mr. Walter Mondale, Vice President of the United States of America; Mr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs; Mr. Warren Christopher, Acting Secretary of the United States of America; Mr. David Aaron, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs; Mr. Robert Goheen, Ambassador of the USA to the Republic of India; and others.

President Carter and Prime Minister Desai held extensive and useful talks in a spirit of mutual confidence, candour and friendship. They agreed that there has been a significant improvement in bilateral relations over the past year, marked by a comprehensive exchange of correspondence between them and President Carter's visit to India in January 1978. This should be continued and deepened, building upon the common principles enunciated in their Joint Declaration signed in New Delhi in January 1978. They also had a broad exchange of views on major international issues of common concern and reviewed the current situation in South Asia. The views of the two sides reflected wide areas of agreement on the issues discussed.

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Prime Minister Desai and President Carter devoted special attention to questions of world peace. They agreed that world peace can only be assured through effective measures to halt the arms race, particularly in the nuclear field, including the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and their ultimate elimination. The Prime Minister welcomed the progress being made in CTB; and SALT negotiations, as described by the President. They called for a stronger and more effective role for the United Nations in the field of disarmament, and emphasized their active support for the Special Session on Disarmament of the United Nations General Assembly.

The President and the Prime Minister agreed on the urgent need to find a com-

prehenisve, just and lasting solution to the problems of the Middle East. It should be based on Israel's withdrawal from territories occupied as a result of the 1967 war, respect for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and steps to ensure the independence, territorial integrity and security of all states of the region.

The President and the Prime Minister reviewed developments in Africa and agreed that peace, racial equality, stability, and economic development with particular attention to the needs of the individual, were essential elements of their policies toward the continent. They agreed that African problems should be solved without outside intervention which can aggravate regional conflicts and inhibit their resolution.

The President and the Prime Minister agreed that the Ethiopia-Somalia conflict should be resolved by peaceful means, respecting the legitimate aspirations of the peoples of the region within the framework of territorial integrity and in comformity with the principles of the Charters of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity.

The President and the Prime Minister expressed support for the legitimate aspirations of the African people to self-determination and majority rule and they condemned racism in all forms. They reaffirmed the inalienable right of the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia to sovereignty and independent development and the necessity of ensuring a rapid transfer of power to the African majority, in the spirit of pertinent United Nations resolutions.

The President and the Prime Minister reviewed the situation in South Asia and the recent events in Afghanistan. They expressed the hope that while preserving their independent personalities, stability, trust and beneficial cooperation among the countries of the region would continue.

The President described the state of talks between U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. on the stabilisation of their military presence in the Indian Ocean. The Prime Minister ex-

pressed the hope that these discussions would continue and result in the eventual removal of all great power military presence in the Ocean.

The President and the Prime Minister had extensive and highly useful discussions on the Indo-U.S. Nuclear Cooperation Agreement and statutory requirements affecting the continued supply of enriched uranium from the United States. They discussed measures to ensure non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, including appropriate universal means of ensuring that nuclear energy is not misused for military purposes. They agreed that the dialogue between the two countries will continue. President Carter pledged to make every effort consistent with American law to maintain fuel supplies for Tarapur and continue nuclear cooperation with India.

The President and the Prime Minister noted with satisfaction the development of economic exchanges between their two countries, and agreed that there is potential for expanding them substantially. President Cater noted that Commerce Secretary Kreps would visit India later this year to explore that potential.

The President and the Prime Minister welcomed the initiative of the India-U.S. Business Council in implementing a programme designed to promote and facilitate cooperation between Indian and U.S. commercial organizations in construction and engineering projects in third countries. The President noted that the International Executive Service Corps would be assigning a highly qualified, retired American businessman to New Delhi this fall to pursue this important Business Council project.

The President and the Prime Minister welcomed the successful conclusion of negotiations for an Indo-U.S. understanding proeviding for concessions under the Tropical

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Products Group of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations as an indication of their mutual desire to contribute to a dynamic and open world trading system. They agreed on the desirability of fighting protectionism and working toward a more open and fair global trading system through a successful conclusion to the Multilateral Trade Negotiations. They also agreed on the need for close consultations in these final stages of the negotiations. It was also agreed that contributions from developing countries should not be inconsistent with their individual development, financial and trade needs. They took note of the recent steps taken by India to liberalize foreign trade.

Prime Minister Desai and President
Carter reviewed the relations between the
world's industrialized and developing nations.
They favoured further exchanges of views
between senior officials from the United
States and India, as well as from other developed and developing countries. Through
such exchanges both developed and developing countries can improve their understanding of their common interests and responsibilities in the equitable operation of the
global economic system.

The President and the Prime Minister expressed satisfaction at the progress of discussions between the two governments on joint projects in agricultural research, extension and education. They also welcomed the progress made in the design of joint projects in the area of solar technology and expressed the hope that they would be speedily implemented.

Prime Minister Desai met with members of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The talks showed a mutual desire to deepen understanding between the two countries and peoples.

The President and the Prime Minister expressed their satisfaction at the results of their talks and agreed to continue the bilateral dialogue through future meetings and correspondence as well as through regular official level consultations and within the India-U.S. Joint Commission.

Prime Minister Desai also visited New York, California and Nebraska.

Prime Minister Desai expressed his warm thanks to President Carter for the friendly and hospitable reception extended to him throughout his visit which is the natural expression of the friendship and shared values of the American and Indian peoples. He was particularly pleased that his tour took him to both coasts of the United States and included the opportunity to visit a working farm in the American Mid-West.

USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC ISRAEL ETHIOPIA MALI SOMALIA NAMIBIA ZIMBABWE AFGHANISTAN

Date: Jun 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

WORLD BANK

World Bank Loan to Indian Telecommunications

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on June 2, 1978, on the grant of World Bank loan of US \$ 120 million for development of telecommunications in India:

The World Bank has agreed to give a loan of US \$ 120 million for the development of the Indian Telecommunications system. This is the seventh in the series of such loans since 1962 and with this the total World Bank aid for the development of telecommunications in India will rise to \$ 488 million.

A special feature of the present loan is that, for the first time, the World Bank will be giving a loan for modernising and upgrading telecommunication manufacturing industry. Out of \$ 20 million earmarked for this purpose, Indian Telephone Industries

(ITI) will get \$ 10.3 million, Hindustan Cables Limited (HCL) \$ 7.5 million and Hindustan Teleprinters Limted (HTL) \$2.2 million for purchase of production machinery, tool room, testing and measuring equipment to modernise and expand their manufacturing capacities.

Out of \$ 100 million to be provided for development of telecom facilities in India, \$ 60 million will be for purchase of rawmaterials and components by ITI, HCL and HTL. The largest share of \$ 32.4 million will go to ITI followed by \$ 27 million to HCL and the HTL will get \$ 0.6 million.

Under the loan, it is envisaged to procure a) \$ 22 million worth of switching equipment for local, trunk and telex exchanges; b) \$ 9.5 million worth of transmission equipment; and c) \$ 5 million worth of equipment and instruments for research, training and testing organisations. The P & T factories at Calcutta, Jabalpur and Bombay have been allocated \$3.5 million for raw-materials and machinery required by them.

The loan will be repayable in 17 years in equal half-yearly instalments beginning from January 1982 and will carry a rate of interest of 7.5 per cent per annum. The formal loan agreement is expected to be signed by the Indian Ambassador in Washington on behalf of the Government of India by the end of June 1978.

Shri J. A. Dave, Secretary, Communications, was the leader of the Indian Delegation which successfully negotiated with the World Bank in Washington for this loan. The other members of the delegation were Shri A. C. Bhatia, Member Finance, Shri K. D. Vaidya, Member, Telecom Development and Shri B. G. Tallco, Assistant Director General of the P & T Board and Shri R. Swaminathan, Director in the Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs.

Date: Jun 01, 1978

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Date: Jul 01, 1978

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BANGLADESH

Fifteenth Meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on July 11, 1978 on the 15th meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission:

The fifteenth meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission was held in New Delhi from the 5th to 11th July, 1978. Mr. B. M. Abbas, A. T., Minister for Power, Water Resources and Flood Control,

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Chairman of the Commission presided over the meeting.

The Bangladesh side was composed of Mr. B. M. Abbas A.T., Chairman, and Messrs M. F. A. Siddiqui and Dr. H. R. Khan, members and Messrs Bahauddin Ahmed, Mir Mustafizur Rahman, Md. Amjad Hossain Khan, A. H. Mahmood Ali and Shahidullah Mia, Advisers.

The Indian side was composed of Shri S. S. Barnala, Minister for Agriculture & Irrigation, Government of the Republic of India, Co-Chairman, and Sarvashri C. C. Patel, M. Dubey and K. V. Rama Rao, Members and M. N. Venkatesan, R. Rangachari, Rajinder Singh and Deb Mukharji, Advisers.

The Commission mainly discussed two items (1) augmentation of the dry season flows of the Ganga/Ganges, and (2) border river problems. A preliminary review and clarification on each other's proposals on augmentation of the Ganga/Ganges flow was made. It was decided that a committee of the Commission will further examine the two proposals before the next meeting of the Commission. The Commission discussed the erosion problem of the border rivers common to both the countries and decided that experts from the Commission would undertake a joint inspection of some of the affected areas immediately and make suitable recommendations on the protective works safeguarding the interest of both the countries. The Commission also discussed the Teesta river problem.

The meeting took place in an atmosphere of cordiality and cooperation.

The Commission decided to hold its next meeting in Dacca in September at a date mutually convenient to both.

BANGLADESH INDIA USA LATVIA UNITED KINGDOM

Date: Jul 01, 1978

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FRANCE

Shri Hundu's Speech at Dinner in Honour of H.E. Mr. Stirn

Shri Samarendra Kundu, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, held a dinner in honour of His Excellency Mr. Oliver Stirn, French Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in New Delhi on July 17, 1978. Proposing to the toast, Shri Kundu said:

Your Excellency and Madame Stirn, and Distinguished Guests, it gives me great pleasure to welcome Your Excellency and

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the members of your delegation to India. Your presence here is a symbol of the warm friendship and cooperation between the peoples of France and India. I am certain that as a result of your visit, these relations will be further strengthened and intensified.

The bonds between our two countries are neither transient nor casual, but based on a deep Fense of shared values - we both have faith in democratic norms and belief in pluralism and social justice. Even during the days of our freedom struggle. we were inspired by the call of the French Revolution for Liberty, Equality, Fraternity. These ideals are abiding.

Both India and France have very distinctive and ancient cultural traditions. And each has taken a profound interest in the other's culture. The influence of France on modern art is world-wide and our own artists have benefited immensely from contact with the well-springs of French creativity. Recently we had the privilege of showing some paintings from France in our Capital. In a few

months, we plan to hold an exhibition of Indian art in Paris.

As a representative of the newly-elected Government of France, Your Excellency would appreciate the responsibilities we face in our Government which came into office last year in the aftermath of a peaceful silent revolution in fulfilling the expectations of the people who have chosen us to serve them. As is well-known, India has many difficult problems which arise from its poverty and social and economic backwardness. Yet, we are trying to resolve these problems mainly by harnessing our own efforts and with the help of sincere friends, among whom we are proud to count France.

Your country has outgrown the period of colonialism and I hope will continue to engage in building up a constructive relationship with many areas which were once under its rule. This enlightened policy will, I am confident, produce very worthwhile results.

We know that France is interested in contributing towards the establishment of a constructive and just New Economic Order. India which has long been working for the achievement of this objective will persevere its efforts in this direction.

However, recently I returned after attending the ECOSOC meeting in Geneva. I am distressed to find that various trade and tariff barriers are raised to shut out exports from developing countries to developed countries. There has been a rise of protectionism and a slow-down in transfer of resources during the last few years and there fore a fear exists that we risk entering an era of generalised restrictions. Another thing that disturbs us is that the way some developed countries indulge in a lavish expenditure in arms race every year while the gap between the poor and the rich countries goes oh increasing. If part of this expenditure could be diverted to the developing countries for the development programme life would be much better than what is now in this part of the world. I only hope that these trends should not frustrate the declaration adopted

in the sixth special session of the UN General Assembly for establishment of the New International Economic Order and to implement the action programme. We earnestly hope that the industrially developed nations of this world, will fully cooperate to implement these objectives and thereby help to have real global interdependence and practice collective self-reliance. We are happy to note that France is among the advanced industrial countries which are striving to fulfil the norm adopted by the U.N. for development assistance as a percentage of GNP.

We are reorienting our agricultural and industrial development plans to create more jobs in the countryside. The economic vitality which such a plan can produce, could, we hope, be put to the service of other developing countries which are facing similar problem.

In conclusion I wish Your Excellency and your delegation a happy sojourn in India. I am glad that you will be visiting some other parts of our country, besides New Delhi. You will find there also a manifestation of India's friendly feelings for you and your people. I request all present to join me in drinking a toast to our distinguished guests. H.E. Mr. Oliver Stirn and Madame Stirn, and to the happiness and prosperity of the people of France.

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FRANCE INDIA USA SWITZERLAND

Date: Jul 01, 1978

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FRANCE

Reply by Mr. Stirn

Replying to the toast, H.E. Mr. Stirn said:

Your Excellency, in the name of those accompanying me and in my own name, I wish, first of all, to express my thanks for the hearty welcome that we have received from you and for the care with which you organised our. stay in India.

Let me also tell you how we appreciated the words you have just pronounced. Our first conversations were useful and I am glad, as you are, of the atmosphere of sympathy in which they took place.

This is in conformity with the tradition of the relations between our two countries, the confident and friendly nature on which is based - in spite of the geographic distance and our differing specific interests - on the adherence to common ideals and on widely convergent concerns in the field of world affairs.

The undoubtedly most remarkable feature of the Indian civilization is the very fact of its continuance, since more than thirty centuries. This performance was possible only thanks to her tolerance and her ability to assimilate. But, above all, it is due to her faith in certain spiritual values from which she draws her strength and radiance, and which India never could set at naught without jeopardizing her national identity. Such is our view in France of the country of the Mahatma Gandhi, and our idea of her position and her mission in the world.

India, henceforth, asserts herself also by the weight of its population, by the worth of its senior staff and by the success of her persistent endeavours which she devoted and still devotes to her development. Moreover, by her faithfulness to the ideal of democracy, by her attachment to peace and non-alignment, she constitutes a factor of equilibrium and moderation in this fast evolving world, the changes of which affect - beyond their regional implications - the future of mankind.

As to France, being herself equally devoted to the cause of peace and of good

understanding among nations, she considers for her part that both of these, can only be achieved, by respecting the independence and identity of the nations. But she is also perfectly aware that such a target can be reached only if confrontation gives way to concentration and if all international relations are organised with more justice and equity.

There lies a wide field of cooperation for both of our countries, since India and France, along with those countries wishing to conduct the world's evolution in such direction, have shown their will to take part in all the great reflections and great debates which characterize our time.

Expressing again my pleasure to be with YOU, I raise my glass to drink the health of Your Excellency and of all those surrounding us, the happiness and prosperity of the Indian People and the friendship between India and France.

FRANCE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA USA

Date: Jul 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

FRANCE

Indo-French Agreement in Science and - Technology

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on July 18, 1978 on the Indo-French agreement on science and technology:

An Indo-French Agreement for co-operation in science and technology was signed in New Delhi on July 18, 1978. Shri Samarendra Kundu, Minister of State for External Affairs signed the agreement on behalf of Government of India and Mr. Oliver Stirn, Secretary

of State for foreign affairs on behalf of Government of France.

The agreement provides for the exchange of scientists and research workers, exchange of scientific and technological information and taking up joint research programmes,

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India and France have already identified several fields such as solar energy, telecommunications, information systems, oceanography and agricultural sciences for mutual co-operation.

The present agreement provides a framework and machinery for developing scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries. The Joint Indo-French Committee is to be set up to prepare detailed programme of co-operation and to review the implementation of these programmes. The Committee will meet alternately in India and France.

FRANCE INDIA

Date: Jul 01, 1978

Volume No

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INDIA - EXTERNAL

Prime Minister's Statement on Ms Visit to Belgium, U.K. and U.S.A.

The Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai made the following statement in the Parliament oil July 20, 1978 on his visit to Belgium, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America:

With your permission, Sir, I would like to make a short statement on my visit abroad

from June 5 to 17. During a short technical halt in Tehran, I met His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah of Iran at his invitation. At the invitation of the Prime Ministers of Belgium, the United Kingdom and the United States, I visited their respective countries. I also addressed the Special Session of U.N. General Assembly on Disarmament. The Minister of External Affairs, Shri A. B. Vajpayee, joined me in London and thereafter assisted me.

IRAN

At Tehran I had a useful exchange of views with His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah of Iran and briefly reviewed the regional situation in the light of development since his visit to India in February last. The exchange helped to harmonise our understanding and reinforce our interest in the political stability of and economic cooperation amongst the nations of our region. I am happy to say that we reached a broad measure of understanding on these issues.

BELGIUM

My visit to Belgium was the first at the political level since 1972. We have no political problems with Belgium, but the exchange of views with the Belgian Prime Minister was useful and ranged over the problems of Europe, Asia and Africa. In particular, we covered recent events in Zaire and agreed that the problem of security of the area should be left to the Africans themselves under the overall guidance of O.A.U. I was also received by His Majesty the king of the Belgians.

In Brussels I had also meaningful talks with the President of the European Commission, Mr. Roy Jenkins, and Mr. Haferkamp, Vice-President in charge of External Affairs of the Community, and his colleagues. I urged upon them that as a major trading partner, we do expect the E.E.C. to facilitate trade and resist the logic of short-term problems and restrictive policies. It was agreed that negotiations for the renewal of our agreement with the E.E.C., due to expire next year, should commence at a high level soon. It was also decided to set up appro-

priate centres for India and the E.E.C. in Brussels and New Delhi respectively.

U.K.

I was in London from 6 to 8 June. I had an audience with Her Majesty the Queen and we held official talks with the British Prime Minister, Mr. James Callaghan, while Shri Vajpayee had separate talks with his British colleague, Dr. David Owen. We had also bilateral discussions at the official level. I also met the leader of the Opposition and the Conservative Party, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, as well as the Leader of the Liberal Party, Dr. David Steel. It was particularly useful to be able to meet a cross-section of British

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Members of Parliament in the House of Commons. In our discussions with the British Government, we covered matters of international and bilateral interest, particularly Southern Africa and North-South economic problems. We emphasised the necessity of avoiding any formula enabling Mr. Ian Smith to perpetuate racist minority rule in Rhodesia by one ruse or another. Our British colleagues assured us that they stood by the main principles of the Anglo-American proposals and would strive to bring about a negotiated settlement between all the parties concerned. We discussed inter alia the nuclear non-proliferation matters in the context of U.S. Non-proliferation Act of 1978 and in the context of the Special Session of the U.N. on Disarmament.

U.N. SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT

India participated very actively in the Special Session of the United Nations on Disarmament and I place before the House a copy of my statement before the General Assembly on June 9. I submitted that commitment to disarmament must be total and it was futile to try to secure partial disarmament through a policy of balancing of forces in an atmosphere of mutual suspicion and fear. The Non-proliteration Treaty has failed to arrest the growth of nuclear armaments either qualitatively or quantitatively,

and I proposed that the Special Session should take a first step in nuclear disarmament through qualitative and quantitative limitations and a time-bound programme for gradual reduction of the existing stockpiles of nuclear weapons with a view to achieving their total elimination and mentioned in particular our own commitment to the pursuit of atomic energy and development for peaceful purpose and to eschew any utilization of this energy for explosion. I also emphasised the importance of expeditious achievement of a comprehensive test ban treaty. While the results of the Special Session fell short of our expectations, due largely to difficult attitude adopted by nuclear military powers, we believe that the Final Document adopted at the conclusion of the Session has some positive elements. In any case, we have still the opportunity to raise the residuary issues before the General Assembly.

In New York, I called on the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, and the President of the Special Session.

U.S.A.

I had two days of discussions with the President and met with members of the U.S. Congress. I also talked with eminent Americans in different walks of life.

My trip to Washington was part of my continuing dialogue with, President Carter and the U.S. Administration. I was once again impressed by the President's frank, sincere and friendly approach in all our discussions. A spirit of mutual confidence and a genuine desire to understand each other's point of view obtains between us. This, I believe, provides a firm foundation for building mutually beneficial relations between the United States and India.

Our discussions in Washington covered a wide range of subjects connected with bilateral and international relations that are reflected in the Joint Communique, of which I place a copy on the Table.

I took the opportunity to impress

upon President Carter and others the obligation of the two main powers, the United States and the Soviet Union, to set an example in nuclear disarmament, a field in which the nuclear-weapon powers had failed to make any significant progress. President Carter gave us a detailed account of the progress being made in their talks with the Soviet Union on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and Strategic Arms Limitation. I found him keen to move towards an early conclusion of Agreements in both these fields.

The nuclear issue is no doubt an important point of difference between the two countries. While President Carter explained the provisions of the U.S. Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978, I reiterated that we could not be asked to accept full-scope safeguards by countries who themselves have nuclear weapons and who do not accept safeguards on their own nuclear military establishments. I argued that the U.S. legislation sought unilaterally to modify its obligations when we have strictly observed ours. In my view, the United States is obligated to supply enriched uranium to Tarapur until 1993 and cannot unilaterally stop the supplies.

I explained our point of view to members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House of Representatives Committee on International Affairs. The House Com-

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mittee, which had held up its vote till it heard me decided by an overwhelming vote the next day to clear the consignment of fuel for Tarapur. A few days later, similar action was taken by the Senate Committee. As you know, the House of Representatives has now approved President Carter's executive order for the shipment of 7.6 metric tons of enriched uranium.

Neither they nor we wish to under-estimate the difference of opinion on the continuing supply of fuel for Tarapur. However, I have reason to believe that there is a wider and better understanding of our nuclear policy and approach to nuclear cooperation than in the past. We have, therefore, agreed

to continue our dialogue on the nuclear issue.

I also discussed with President Carter and his two colleagues concerned with commerce and international trade negotiation% the necessity of controlling the growing trend towards protectionism in developed countries. I also referred to the difficulties being encountered in the U.S.A. by our exporters of cotton textiles and engineering goods. It was agreed that there was considerable potential for expanding trade and other economic exchanges between India and the U.S.A. Accordingly, the U.S. Secretary for Commerce, Mrs. Kreps, would be visiting India later this year to explore the potential. I am glad that my discussions have resulted in the U.S. Department concerned relaxing in their attitude regarding consignments of textiles which had been held up.

Naturally, I met members and representatives of the Indian Communities wherever I went. They are increasing in size and in the nature of occupations. This raises complex problems. We are interested in their welfare and commend all efforts leading to multi-racial harmony, enabling them to live in dignity. This demands, of our Indian brethren abroad, acceptance of the laws of the land wherever they may be and adjustment to their economic and social environments in keeping with the ancient Indian tradition of tolerance. I advised our countrymen that by their conduct, they should prove, themselves to be worthy of India, the country of their origin. In Britain, the immigrant Indian community was apprehensive of a worsening of racial relations. I drew the attention of British leaders to these apprehensions and conveyed to them as well as leaders of the Indian community the need for promoting mutual confidence and harmony between different ethnic groups. This was widely accepted as the best course.

I have come away with the impression from the countries I visited that there is a friendly and warm interest in India. There is a wide appreciation of the constructive approach we have made to international issues and to the policy of genuine non-alignment. Our measures to restore and safe-

guard democratic norms and personal freedoms have been warmly welcomed. There is also an awareness and appreciation of our efforts at economic development, devoting special attention to agriculture and the rural areas. Our desire to achieve self-reliance has been studied with understanding. There is understanding and admiration for the new orientation in our foreign policy. Most leaders felicitated. us on the improved climate which prevail in South Asia and would like to see it continued and consolidated. The House can confidently feel satisfied that in a troubled world India's standing is higher and that the world would like to see India grow in stability and traverse its chosen paths at home and abroad.

INDIA BELGIUM UNITED KINGDOM USA IRAN ZAIRE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PERU

Date: Jul 01, 1978

Volume No

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IRAQ

Shri Jatti's Speech at Dinner in Honour of Iraqi Vice-President

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on July 5, 1978 of the speech by the Vice-President, Shri B. D. Jatti, at a dinner in honour of His Excellency Mr. Taha Muhyiddin Marouf, Vice-President of the Republic of Iraq, in New Delhi on July 5, 1978. Proposing the toast, Shri Jattti said:

Mr. Vice-President, Excellencies, Colleagues and Friends, it gives me great

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pleasure to welcome this evening H.E. Vice-President Marouf and the other distinguished members of his party. Our two peoples are no strangers and can well be proud of the history of friendship and cooperation which have characterised our relations over the years. Both our countries have faced the gigantic task of bestowing the benefits of independence and modernisation to our respective peoples. India has watched with admiration your Government's successful efforts to build the economy of your country not only through progressive agricultural reforms but also in the industrial field. We both have the same objective of social and economic development for the welfare of all sections of our populations and this common approach has also brought about an identity of views as member of the non-aligned group.

We have great regard for the steadfastness and devotion with which Iraq has pursued the Arab cause. India's own stand on the West Asian issue is well known to you. We reaffirm our principled support for the Arab call for withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied Arab lands and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Pales. tinian people.

As members of the third world, our two countries are brought together by our common concern for the demand for a new international economic order, which alone, in our view, can usher in a just and more equitable relationship within the world community. We seek to eliminate the remaining vestiges of the evils of imperialism and colonialism and to persuade the entire international community of the threat to world peace which is posed by the enormous gulf that exists between the rich and the poor nations of the world.

We cannot remain unconcerned with the grim realities in the countries in Southern Africa where the majority have been denied their legitimate rights by the minority. The people of these countries have also been subjected to great persecution and suffering. We are firm in our conviction that the right of self-determination and majority rule cannot be denied to the people of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa.

In India today, there is a new confidence in democratic institutions which the Government has continuously striven to re-establish during the past one year. We have resolved to reorient our economic and social planning programmes and policies. It gladdens our hearts to see Iraq's progress towards economic and social development of its people under the wise and dynamic leadership of your President, H.E. Mr. Ahmad Hassan Al Bakr, the Vice Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, H.E. Mr. Saddam Hussain and the Arab Baath Socialist Party. The spirit of warm cordiality in which our Minister of Industry was received in Iraq demonstrated the close friendly relations between our two countries and enabled us to take stock of the wide ranging cooperation in various fields. The successive meetings of the Indo-Iraq Joint Commission have repeatedly reassured us of an ever-increasing and mutually beneficial relationship. We are confident that your present visit would take us many steps further in consolidating these relations in political, economic, cultural, scientific and technological fields.

Excellencies and Friends, may I now request you to join me in raising your galsses in a toast for the health and happiness of His Excellency Vice President Marouf and to the progress and prosperity of the people of Iraq and to everlasting bonds of friendship between our two countries.

IRAQ INDIA USA ISRAEL NAMIBIA SOUTH AFRICA

Date: Jul 01, 1978

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IRAQ

Iraqi Vice-President's Reply

Replying to the toast, the Iraqi Vice-President said:

It is a source of pride and gratification that this kind invitation has been extended to me and my colleagues members of the delegation to visit your great country which is bound with ours by the oldest and strongest ties of friendship and to see the renowned historical and cultural landmarks and to witness the tremendous achievements accomplished in the various fields since your independence, thanks to the wisdom of your leaders, their foresightedness, their upholding of humanitarian principles and noble spiritual values.

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I am happy to emphasise the old and continuous interactions between your civilisation and Arab civilization and I feel it incumbent upon me to record with high esteem the valuable impact of Indian philosophy and Indian sciences on Arab civilization. It is indeed a source of deep gratification to note the good and steady progress of our mutual relations and that the scope of cooperation and coordination is widening every day in all fields and particularly the economic, cultural and political.

It is my earnest hope that these relations will grow and become even stronger as time passes.

I am also confident that this visit will provide a suitable opportunity to exchange views regarding bilateral relations and important international problems and I am happy to say that these views are identical or close in respect of many such problems and in particular I wish to mention our stands in respect of the non-aligned movement, in which India has always played a prominent role, the question of declaring the Indian Ocean and its natural extensions a zone of peace and the struggle against racial discrimination in all parts of the world.

I feel it my duty on this occasion to refer with immense appreciation and gratitude to India's firmness and continuous support of Arab causes notably the question of Palestine, the central cause of the Arab Nation.

I deem it a distinct honour to convey the greetings and good wishes of His Excellency Ahmed Hassan Al-Bakr to His Excellency the President of the Republic of India and to the Indian people and government together with the greetings and good wishes of the Iraqi people and government.

I am happy to conclude my speech by expressing to you our deep appreciation and gratitude for all the kindness, generosity and hospitality shown to me and to members of my Delegation.

IRAQ USA INDIA

Date: Jul 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

IRAQ

Joint Communique

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on July 7, 1978 an the Indo-Iraqi Joint Communique:

At the invitation of the Government of India, His Excellency Mr. Taha M. Marouf, Vice President of the Republic of Iraq, accompanied by His Excellency Dr. Sadoon Hammadi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iraq and other officials paid a state visit to India from July 5 to July 7, 1978.

2. The Vice President and the accompanying delegation were received in a spirit of warm cordiality reflecting the traditional close ties between the two countries and the earnest desire of both sides to reaffirm and

further consolidate their friendship and to expand the areas of mutually beneficial cooperation between them in all fields.

- 3. During his stay in Delhi, the Vice President of the Republic of Iraq paid homage to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi by laying a wreath at Rajghat.
- 4. The Vice President of the Republic of Iraq held discussions with the Prime Minister of India, Shri Morarji Desai on various international issues and on matters of regional significance in a warm and cordial atmosphere. The Vice President also received Shri Jagjivan Ram, Minister of Defence, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs, Shri H. N. Bahuguna, Minister of Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilizers, Shri Madhu Dandavate, Minister of Railways and Shri George Fernandes, Minister of Industry.
- 5. Vice President Marouf acquainted Prime Minister Desai with the progress made by the Republic of Iraq in various fields since the Revolution of 17th July, 1968, under the leadership of H.E. President Ahmad Hasan Al-Bakr. Prime Minister Desai was also informed of the Iraqi view-point on the situation in the Arab Region and the Iraqi perception of how the fundamental issues facing the region could be resolved.
- 6. Prime Minister Desai explained the efforts made by India so far towards normalisation of relations amongst the countries of the sub-continent with a view to creating a climate of understanding and fruitful cooperation in the region.
- 7. The two sides laid emphasis on the lasting validity of the policy of Non-align-

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ment. They felt satisfied that the Non-aligned Movement had successfully and effectively emerged as a formidable moral force against all evils confronting mankind, particularly all forms of colonialism, Zionism, alien domi-

nation and apartheid. They further noted nrogress in this respect, since the Colombo Summit in 1976 and the Bureau Meetings held in New Delhi in 1977 and in Havana this year. At the same time, both delegations reaffirmed the need to maintain the unity and cohesiveness of the Non-aligned Movement in order that it remained an effective forum for fostering mutually beneficial inter se cooperation in all possible areas.

- 8. They particularly stressed that in view of the growing Inter-dependence of the world community, it was imperative that a new and more just international order be established, which would recognise the fact that the affluent advanced nations of the world, which accounted for only a small minority of the world's population. monopolised most of the world's resources. This was not a situation which was conducive to world peace and stability. Both sides therefore emphasised the urgent necessity for the recognition by the developed countries of the legitimate rights and aspirations of all the people of the world for economic and social progress.
- 9. The Iraqi Vice President apprised the Indian Prime Minister of the current situation in the Arab region. He expressed serious concern over the intransigence of Israel which continued to disregard world opinion by persisting in its occupation of Arab territories and refusing to accept the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. He further stated that no peace could be achieved without the liberation of all occupied territories and the restoration of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, The Indian Prime Minister reiterated his Government's policy of full support for the Arab cause and stressed that a just and durable peace could not be achieved without immediate Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination.
- 10. The two sides called for early implementation by all concerned of the UN Declaration on the establishment of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace including

its natural extensions.

- 11. With regard to the situation in Southern Africa, both sides expressed their total solidarity with the oppressed peoples suffering under the racist minority regimes in South Africa and Zimbabwe. They expressed their full support to the patriotic forces struggling for liberation of their countries still under colonial voke. They also wholeheartedly supported the struggle of the people of Namibia to secure full independence and territorial integrity for their country.
- 12. Both delegations also discussed bilateral relations between India and Iraq and expressed satisfaction at the development of these relations in the political, economic, commercial, scientific and technological, cultural and other fields. Particular note was taken of the cooperation extended by India in the implementation of Iraq's developmental programme. Both sides also felt that the functioning of the Indo-Iraq Joint Commission and its sub-committees was progressing smoothly, and it was resolved to give fresh impetus to the efforts made by both governments to forge even closer ties between the two countries.
- 13. Both sides stressed the importance of maintaining regular contacts at appropriate forums as well as the exchange of visits at various levels between the two countries. In this connection both delegations looked forward to the forthcoming Ministerial level Meeting at Belgrade and expressed the hope that it would be fruitful and productive.
- 14. The Vice-President of the Republic of Iraq expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to him and the members of his delegation by the Government and people of India. He also on behalf of the Vice-Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, H.E. Sadaam Hussein, renewed the cordial invitation to the Prime Minister to visit the Republic of Iraq at a mutually convenient time. The Prime Minister reiterated his acceptance of the invitation with pleasure.

IRAQ INDIA USA MALI PERU SRI LANKA CUBA ISRAEL SOUTH AFRICA ZIMBABWE NAMIBIA YUGOSLAVIA

Date: Jul 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

LIBYA

Shri Jatti Hosts Dinner for Libyan Dignitary

The Vice-President Shri B. D. Jatti, held a dinner in honour of His Excellency Staff Major Abdul Salam Ahmed Jalloud, Member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in New Delhi on July 17, 1978. Proposing the toast, Shri Jatti said:

Your Excellency, Staff Major Jalloud, Excellencies, Colleagues and Friends, it gives me immense pleasure to welcome this evening His Excellency Staff Major Abdul Salaam Jalloud and the other distinguished members of his party. Our two peoples are no strangers and can well be proud of the ever growing ties of friendship and cooperation, which singularly characterise the development of very close and amicable relations between two developing countries. We, in India, have been greatly impressed with the gigantic efforts being undertaken by the friendly country of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to rebuild the sinews of economy by launching a multi-faceted development programme in practically all spheres of economic development. Since the revolution both our countries have the same objective of social and economic development for the welfare of all sections, particularly the weaker sections of our populations and this common approach has brought about an identity of views as

members of the non-aligned group.

We have great regard for the consistency and devotion with which the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has pursued the Arab cause and support for progressive forces. India's own stand on the West Asian issue is well known to you. We re affirm our principled support for the Arab call for withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied Arab lands and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The fight against imperialism and colonialism are, of course, part of the common stand of the non-aligned countries which seek not only to eliminate the remaining vestiges of these evils but also to persuade the entire international community of the danger to world peace of the immense affluence enjoyed by a few as against the object poverty and misery of the many. This is the basis of our demand for a new international economic order which alone can usher in a just and more equitable relationship within the world community.

Turning towards Africa, our policy has all along been a principled one. We have always believed and continue to believe that the problems of Africans should be left to them for settlement, if necessary through the good offices of the Organisation of African Unity. We cannot remain unconcerned with the grim realities in the countries in Southern Africa, where the minority has been persistent in perpetuating their rule and denying the legitimate rights to the majority. We are firm in our conviction that the right of self-determination and majority rule cannot be denied to the people of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa.

Excellency, as I mentioned earlier we, in India, are particularly conscious of the courageous efforts by the people of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya under the leadership of His Excellency Colonel Gaddafi, leader of the Great First September Revolution to transform the economic orientation of your country through massive developmental projects. In this

effort we are genuinely proud that we have been able to contribute our mite by cooperating with your country in your developmental programmes and also by supplying trained and qualified technical personnel. Indeed, I am happy that the recent visit to your country in October, 1977 of our Minister of Industry enabled us to take stock of the different fields of Indo-Libyan cooperation and helped to identify many new avenues of mutually beneficial cooperation. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding at the time of the visit of our Minister of Industry followed by the visits to India of delegations from Libya have provided a further opportunity for follow-up-action. We are confident that your present visit will provide the

254 necessary Impetus to consolidate our relations in the political, economic, cultural, scientific and technical fields.

Excellencies and Friends, may I now request you to join me in raising your glasses in a toast for the health and happiness of His Excellency Staff Major Abdul Salam Ahmed Jalloud, Member of the General People's Congress of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, to the progress and prosperity of the great Libyan people and to the continued further strengthening of the existing bonds of friendship between our two countries.

LIBYA INDIA USA ISRAEL ZIMBABWE SOUTH AFRICA

Date: Jul 01, 1978

	Volume No	
1995		
LIBYA		
Joint Communique		

The following is the text of a Press release issued in New Delhi on July 25, 1978 of the indo-Libyan Joint Communique:

At the invitation of Shri Morarji Desai, Prime Minister of India, Staff Major Abdul Salam Ahmed Jalloud, Member of the General Committee of the General People's Congress of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya paid a State visit to India from July 17 to 25, 1978 (corresponding to 12th to 20th Shaban 1398 Hijri). The distinguished guest was accompanied by an official delegation and was given a warm and cordial reception in conformity with the depth of friendship and relationship existing between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and India. During the course of the visit, Staff Major Abdul Salam Ahmed Jalloud and his delegation visited historic sites, places of cultural interest and industrial establishments in Delhi and in different parts of India to acquaint themselves with the cultural heritage of the people of India and its progress in the industrial, economic, scientific and technological fields.

Staff Major Abdul Salam Ahmed Jalloud and Members of his Delegation laid a wreath at Rajghat as a mark of respect to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi.

The distinguished visitor was received by the President of India, Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy and the Vice-President of India, Shri B. D. Jatti. He had very useful, frank and detailed discussions with Shri Morarji Desai, the Prime Minister of India. Official talks were also held between the two delegations led by Staff Major Abdul Salam Ahmed Jalloud and Shri Morarji Desai from the Libyan and Indian sides respectively. In these official discussions Ministers and officials of the two Governments participated. Staff Major Abdul Salam Ahmed Jalloud also received and had discussions with the Minister of External Affairs Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of Industry Shri George Fernandes, Minister of Railways Shri Madhu Dandavate and Minister of Commerce, Civil Supplies and Co-operation Shri Mohan Dharia.

Staff Major Abdul Salam Ahmed Jalloud gave a detailed exposition of the remarkable accomplishments of the Libyan people in different spheres including the philosophy, the new thoughts, ideals and principles which emanated from the Great First September Revolution and the role played by the Libyan People in establishing the popular revolution and achieving direct democracy as well as people's authority and Jamahiriya. He further explained the leading role played by the Jamahiriya against colonialism, imperialism, reactionism, zionism and, racial discrimination. He also mentioned the positive and active role played by the Jamahiriya in establishing Arab Unity, preserving African unity and solidarity against colonial interference and their positive role in the nonaligned movement. The Indian Prime Minister noted with appreciation the role played by the Great First September Revolution in achieving the prosperity and social welfare of the Libyan People. He conveyed the goodwill and good wishes of the Indian people for the Arabs and expressed the view that Arab unity would contribute greatly towards their progress and prosperity.

Shri Morarji Desai explained to Staff Major Abdul Salam Ahmed Jalloud initiatives taken by India towards the normalisation of relations with her neighbours and expressed India's desire for the establishment of a friendly atmosphere as also the conviction that understanding, cooperation and beneficial exchange amongst the countries of the

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Indian sub-continent were not only in the interests of the countries concerned but would also contribute greatly towards peace. stability and security in the region. Staff Major Abdul Salam Ahmed Jalloud expressed his appreciation of the efforts made by India in this regard.

Shri Morarji Desai also took the opportunity to explain the efforts made by his Government in the fields of social and economic development of India and the future plans of his Government for the upliftment and wellbeing of the Indian people. Staff

Major Abdul Salam Ahmed Jalloud complimented the Prime Minister on these achievements and conveyed his best wishes for the prosperity and welfare of the Indian people.

The two parties reviewed the situation in the Arab region and expressed their conviction that peace in the region could be achieved only through withdrawal by Israel from all occupied Arab territories and expressed their full support for the struggle of the Palestinian people for the restoration of their legitimate and inalienable national rights for a homeland, including the right of self-determination.

With regard to the situation in Africa, the two sides expressed their grave anxiety over areas in which tension continues to prevail in some regions of Africa. They expressed their belief that the solutions to African problems could be best found by the Africans themselves in the African context through peaceful negotiations and without foreign interference. Both delegations further expressed their total solidarity and willingness to render assistance to the oppressed peoples suffering under racial discrimination in South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe in their struggle for national independence.

The two sides emphasised the continuing and lasting validity of non-alignment and expressed their satisfaction in regard to the development of this movement and its effective role in maintaining international peace and security. They reiterated their adherence to the principles of this movement and their willingness to jointly exert all efforts to support and strengthen it. The non-aligned movement had now become a great moral and political force against all evils confronting mankind, particularly, colonialism, alien domination and apartheid. They further noted the progress in this respect since the Colombo Summit in 1976 and the Bureau meetings in New Delhi in 1977 and in Havana in May this year.

The two sides called for an early implementation by all concerned of the UN declaration on the establishment of the Indian

Ocean as a zone of peace from which great power rivalries and competition as well as military bases conceived in the context of such rivalries and competition be excluded

The Libyan side expressed its sincere conviction that the Mediterranean should be converted into a Zone of Peace. The Indian side supported this concept.

Staff Major Abdul Salam Ahmed Jalloud and Shri Morarji Desai also exchanged views regarding the Special U.N. General Assembly Session on Disarmament. They reviewed the recent special session of the U.N. General Assembly on Disarmament and expressed their grave concern at the increasing escalation in the arms race, including nuclear arms, and reiterated their belief that there was no alternative to mankind moving towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. They supported the convening of a World Disarmament Commission which, they hoped, would provide a machinery for future meaningful deliberations and negotiations on disarmament.

The two sides reaffirmed their adherence to the aims and objectives of the United Nations and expressed the conviction that the progress made towards the attainment of the goal of universality of membership in the United Nations has enabled Non aligned countries, in pursuit of the objective of equitable international relations, to play a greater role in the decision-making process on the basis of full respect for the sovereignty and equality of States.

While reviewing the international economic situation the two heads of delegation noted the growing awareness and appreciation of inter-dependence of the world community. The continuing, indeed increasing, disparity amongst nations wherein the developed nations which accounted for a comparatively small minority of the world's Population continue to develop and prosper while the majority of mankind could not afford even the basic amenities and facilities of livelihood, posed a danger to world peace and security. The establishment of a more just and equitable international order was imperative and both sides, therefore, emphasised the urgent necessity for the recognition by the developed nations of the legitimate rights and aspirations of all the peoples of the world for economic and social progress.

The two heads of delegation also shared the view that economic development, selfreliance and self-sufficiency were essential ingredients of true independence and the best safeguard against foreign influence and interference. They, therefore, emphasised the need for greater cooperation amongst the, developing countries, bilaterally and multilaterally, which would strengthen both national independence as also the non-aligned movement. There was now sufficient diversity and complementarity within the developing countries of the non-aligned world which provided ample opportunity for meaningful exchanges, transfer of technology and cooperation. They stressed that every effort should be made amongst non-aligned countries to bring about the optimum utilisation of their capacities, capabilities, resources and technical abilities through bilateral, sub-regional, regional and multi-lateral cooperation.

Both in the above context and in the light of the ancient cultural and historical ties between Jamahiriya and India, the two leaders noted with satisfaction the developments and exchanges between the two countries in the political, economic, cultural, scientific, technological and other fields. The Libyan side have prepared a darft Cultural Agreement which will be examined, finalised and signed by the two sides very shortly: They reiterated their determination further to intensify and diversify these links and exchanges so that these could become a model of cooperation amongst two developing countries. The opportunity of the State visit was, therefore, taken for intensive discussions amongst members of the two delegations to review existing cooperation and to identify new areas and fields. A Protocol on Economic, Industrial, Scientific and Technical Cooperation and a Trade Agreement were signed during the visit.

While reviewing the existing cooperation, the Libyan side expressed satisfaction at the implementation of the various projects which %ad been entrusted to Indian enterprises. The enlightened economic development plans of the Jamahiriya on the one hand and the capabilities, skills and technology available in India on the other, provided excellent opportunities of multifaceted mutually beneficial cooperation. Most notable specific promising areas of cooperation were railways, construction of various kinds - housing, roads, airports, dams, bridges, etc., establishment of industrial estates, the utilisation of consultancy services, establishment of joint ventures and joint marketing of products. As a concrete and effective step in the direction of intensifying exchanges, it was agreed that a Joint Commission would be established at the Ministerial level which would meet periodically to review, monitor, guide and plan exchanges between the two countries.

In the field of energy, the two sides agreed that much more could be done to assist each other. It was agreed that further discussions would be held in this regard amongst experts of both sides. The participation of India in the programme of power generation, maintenance and distribution had already proved to be beneficial to both sides. As a consequential and natural next step, an agreement was signed for the formation of an Indo-Libyan Electricity Company.

The Libyan side also expressed its appreciation of the services rendered and the role being played by the technical and professional personnel from India who have been deputed to serve in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The Prime Minister of India offered to make available additional requirements as and when they are needed.

Both sides agreed on exchange of technology in different fields for mutual benefit. The Indian side agreed to provide techno-

logical assistance, to the extent possible, for the Jamahiriya's developmental programmes.

Both sides expressed the importance of maintaining regular contacts and exchanges at appropriate levels and forums.

Staff Major Abdul Salam Ahmed Jalloud expressed his appreciation of and gratitude for the hospitality and warm reception extended to him personally and his accompany-

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ing Delegation by the Government and the people of India. He extended an invitation to Shri Morarji Desai to visit the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. This was gratefully accepted and will be arranged subject to mutual convenience.

LIBYA INDIA USA MALI ISRAEL NAMIBIA SOUTH AFRICA ZIMBABWE SRI LANKA CUBA

Date: Jul 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

NEPAL

Memorandum of Understanding on Industrial and Economic Cooperation Signed

The following is the text of the joint press release issued on July 30, 1978 at the end of the visit of a high level Indian delegation to Nepal and the signing of a memorandum, by the leader of the Indian delegation, Shri V. Krishnamurthy, Secretary, Heavy Industry and Shri D. P. Koirala, Secretary in the Ministry of industry and Commerce of Nepal:

A high-powered Multi-Disciplinary team led by Shri V. Krishnamurthy, Secretary, Department of Heavy Industry, Government of India, visited Nepal from 26th to 30th July, 1978 in pursuance of the decisions taken in April 1978 when the Prime Minister of Nepal, The Rt. Hon. Shri Kirti Nidhi Bista, visited India at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India, Shri Morarji Desai.

The Indian delegation had detailed discussions with the counterpart Nepalese delegation of officials and specialists led by Shri Koirala, Secretary to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of the Government of Nepal.

The Leader of the Indian Delegation called on Shri Kirti Nidhi Bista, Prime Minister of Nepal, Shri P. D. Khati, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri B. B. Thapa, Minister of Finance, Shri Pashupathi Rana, Minister of State for Education. Shri G. C. S. Rajbansi, Assistant Minister for Industry and Commerce, Dr. B. P. Shrestha, Vice-Chairman of the National Planning Commission, Shri Kul Shekhar Sharma, Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank, Shri U. D. Bhatt, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. D. R. Pandey, Acting Secretary, Ministry of Finance, and Shri Indar Bhakta Shrestha, President of the Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

At the conclusion of the discussions, a Memorandum of Understanding on Industrial and Economic Cooperation was signed at Kathmandu on 30th July, 1978 by Shri Koirala and Shri Krishnamurthy. It incorporates the new dimensions of economic and. industrial cooperation between the two countries following the successful conclusion of the Treaties between Nepal and India on the Trade and Transit and the Inter-Governmental agreement on Cooperation to Control Unauthorised Trade. A new Chapter of close partnership has been opened in respect of joint projects covering the large, medium, small scale, cottage and agro-industrial sectors.

Joint ventures in the implementation of large industrial projects were considered with a view to reducing the trade deficit between the two countries and subserving other objectives of Nepal's industrial policy relating to utilisation of local capital, skills and resources and creation of more employment

opportunities to absorb the surplus agricultural labour. Among the large projects considered, the more important ones related to a cement plant at Udayapur and development of the paper and pulp industry for exports to India and third countries', Other large projects to be taken up on a joint venture basis related to magnesite, zinc, lead and iron and steel. It has been agreed that a diesel pumping sets project would be established in Nepal for manufacture of 5 H.P. diesel pump sets.

Cooperation was established in another area of high priority in the development programmes of both the countries, namely, promotion of small and cottage industries.

These include extension and establishment of

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industrial estates, entrepreneurship development programmes, deputation of technical personnel, training of technical personnel and provision of credit.

For meeting the great shortage of technically qualified skilled manpower in Nepal, Government of Nepal has taken up several programmes for upgrading skills and expertise of artisans, craftsman and technicians. India's experience in these programmes would be shared with Nepal. The lead organisation in India, Hindustan Machine Tools, would extend its expertise towards setting up a Regional Training Institute to serve the needs of the Western and Far Western regions of Nepal and a functional industrial estate at Butwal which would comprise several light engineering industries with a Common Facilities Centre. HMT would be associated in the setting up of production-oriented Polytechnic in the Central Region, which in addition to courses in Civil, mechanical and automotive engineering, would provide training facilities for skilled workers.

It was recognised that the infrastructure, particularly relating to rail links, would require to be developed in the context of several large projects which are to be set up envisaging exports to India and third countries.

A quick assessment is to be made for the establishment of railway lines and railway sidings which would be crucial in enhancing the feasibility and viability of large projects, particularly those of high priority, in respect of cement, pulp/paper, magnesite etc. Financing arrangements were also discussed in support of the policies of the Government of Nepal regarding Joint ventures. Time-bound schedules have been provided for the implementation of the decisions taken at the meetings between the two delegations. Further, follow-up, particularly in respect of major projects, would be taken up at the highest policy level by Shri George Fernandes, Indian Minister of Industry, during his visit to Nepal shortly at the invitation of the Government of Nepal.

The discussions were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere and were most constructive in consonance with the new ties of amity fostered between the two countries. The Leader of the Indian Delegation extended an invitation to the Leader of the Nepalese Delegation and members of his team to visit India in the next few weeks. The invitation has been accepted and the Nepalese -,delegation would visit India at the earliest possible date.

NEPAL USA INDIA RUSSIA

Date: Jul 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

NON-ALIGNMENT

Shri Vajpayee's Speech at Belgrade Conference

The following is the text of the speech by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs, at the Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-aligned countries in Belgrade on July 26, 1978:

Mr. President, seventeen years ago, the first Summit Conference of Non-aligned countries was held in this beautiful and historic capital of Yugoslavia. It marked the beginnings of our great movement which has since steadily grown in strength and effectiveness.

The movement began when non-alignment was questioned from without by the aligned world. The challenge today continues from without but there is also a challenge from within to maintain our cohesion and the pursuit of our common purpose. The answer to both kinds of challenges may be that the present Belgrade Assembly goes back to Belgrade 1961 for inspiration so that we can muster a new confidence and fresh vitality for the future.

At that Conference, the late Jawaharlal Nehru described non-alignment as the emergence of a "moral force". He declared 'Essentially, non-alignment is freedom of action which is a part of independence ...

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Non-alignment is now an integral part of the international pattern and is widely con to be a comprehensive and legitimate policy, particularly for the emergent Afro-Asian States'.

Many of the great leaders of the non-aligned world then stradling the international scene have since passed away. We are, however, fortunate to have the continuing guidance of one of the founding fathers, President Tito who, in his long and historic life as a freedom fighter and later as a statesman, symbolises the spirit of fearlessness and independence, which is the essence of our movement. This was his message in 1961 and, with remarkable consistency, this was the theme of his call to us in the inspiring address he delivered to us yesterday.

Mr. President, I must first gratefully acknowledge the graciousness of the Yugoslav hospitality and meticulousness of Conference arrangements. I should also like to offer you, our warm congratulations on your unanimous election as President of this Conference. Under your stewardship we are safely launched on fruitul discussions at this rather important stage in world affairs and the non-aligned movement.

We are happy to welcome Djibouti as a member of the movement. We are also glad to greet our neighbour Pakistan in our midst as a guest and we hope it will go on to detach itself from the military alliance system.

Non-alignment was born in a world locked in confrontation between rival power blocs which were out to enforce conformity and dismissed the will to independence in international affairs as heresy. It was against heavy odds of distrust and suspicion that here in Belgrade the torch of independence, non-conformity and non-militarism was lit. There was a real danger that new nations were going to be disciplined into forms of military dependence or ideological subjugation. The bold assertion of our principles came, when in the wake of the end of empires many newly independent nations felt weak and handicapped to pursue their own aspirations.

FLEXIBILITY AND DIVERSITY

It is only when we recall the circumstances of our small beginnings that we can measure our success. Non-alignment became a fraternity which allowed flexibility and diversity. Its collecticve strength made it a haven for countries wanting to exercise national freedom of judgement and action Today the movement represents two thirds of mankind.

What has been the key to the success of our movement and its widening appeal? The central running theme has been faith in our independence and the defiant courage to reject borrowed counsels of multilateral militarism and ideological uniformity. It is worth recalling the fundamental principles which were announced here in Balgrade 17 years ago.

It was in the Belgrade Declaration that

We proclaimed that the existence of different. social systems did not constitute an insurmountable obstacle to the stabilization if peace provided the attempts at domination and interference in the internal affairs of nations were ruled out. We agreed then that no social or political system should be imposed by force.

In the then prevailing atmosphere of mistrust and tensions of the cold war, the Belgrade Declaration affirmed that peaceful co-existence and international co-operation was the only way to eliminate historical injustices and the economic imbalances inherited from the age of imperialism. War was categorically denounced as a crime against humanity.

We agreed then that non-aligned countries did not wish to form a new bloc and could not be a bloc, that the non-committed areas of the world must be extended as an indispensable course to prevent the policy of total division into blocs. It was a declaration of peace and true independence in an environment of military dependence and ideological uniformity.

LOGIC OF CO-EXISTENCE

Mr. President, the vision of our founding fathers was prophetic. Almost the whole world today rejects the inevitability of war. The logic of co-existence and cooperation has been accepted by the protagonists of multilateral militarism. Exercise of free judgement and independent action has come to be widely respected. It is accepted that each nation can make its own revolution or adopt its chosen method of social change and that every country has the right to take pride in

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its own political gospel and its own path of progress which can reflect its historical circumstances, its culture, tradition and ethos and its economic compulsions.

Today, non-alignment is no longer suspect. It is accepted and respected as a factor

and contribution towards peace and stability. The strength of our movement lies in its broad base and its flexibility to accommodate different points of view, while remaining united in its adherence to the basic principles. When welcoming nations who seek our association, we would expect them to move on rapidly to repudiate totally the dependence on military blocs and multilateral military alliances.

No attempt either from inside or outside can weaken or deflect the movement if we remain genuinely non-aligned and faithful to the principles which were proclaimed in Belgrade.

There is some danger that the sense of elation at our success may lull us into-complacency. It will be to no avail to pretend that there are no differences amongst us. We must acknowledge that intra-non-aligned conflicts have taken place and have carried the danger of our movement being dragged into the vortex of great power strategic or political rivalries.

The non-aligned countries cannot afford to remain silent spectators when dangerous tensions erupt within our ranks. We must ensure that problems among non-aligned countries are resolved bilaterally, peacefully and without allowing external forces taking advantage of our differences. At the same time, the movement should be ready to use its moral authority to help, wherever possible to defuse conflicts or conciliate or offer good offices for the resolution of such conflicts. The divisive potential of such festering wounds should, however, not in any case be allowed to strain the unity of the movement. On its part, India has scrupulously refrained from using the forum of non-aligned movement for bilateral problems even in moments of serious crisis in our history.

REJECTION OF COLD WAR

The movement is today confronted with sharp differences of opinion and interpretation concerning involvement of and dependence on outside military forces. The right of national self-defence cannot be questioned but, consistent with the non-aligned philosophy, we should not allow such a situation to develop as will lead to a vicious circle of external military dependence or involvement. If we do, we may bring in the cold war by the back door, having all but succeeded in rejecting it frontally.

We must realise that permanent external military dependence is bound to dilute a nation's non-alignment and independence. It should be our collective concern to strengthen the non-alignment of those of our members who have felt compelled temporarily to seek external assistance.

Given the strength and moral authority of our movement, we should be able to muster confidence in order to meet the threats of external interference and domination, whatever its nature.

The major concern today arises from existing or incipient problems on the continent of Africa. But Africa has demonstrated the wisdom and capacity to tackle African problems. The Organisation of African Unity which incidentally is the only regional or continental organization committed by its charter to the philosophy of non-alignment, has once again, at the recently concluded summit at Khartoum, demonstrated its capacity to reach consensus on the major problems which confront Africa. We can do no better than lend our support to these decisions taken under the statesmanlike guidance of President Nimery.

Many of us are signatories to the five principles governing bilateral relations the essence of which is non-interference in the internal affairs of one another, respect for territorial integrity of our partner nations and mutual respect and will for mutual cooperation and accommodation. These are not only good principles but in the end good policies. From these principles follow clearly respect for established frontiers and peaceful resolution of bilateral problems.

INDIA'S STAND

Non-alignment has been the most signi-

ficant continuing factor in India's foreign policy ever since our independence. India has all along perceived nonalignment not as a negative philosophy of taking advantage of differences between great powers, but as a commitment to positive coopeartion.

We do not minimise the role and responsibility of great powers. Through faithful adherence to genuine non-alignment, we have

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been able to improve our bilateral relations with each of the great powers without being drawn into differences between them or getting involved in issues which exacerbate international tensions.

It is similarly with the inspiration of the non-aligned philosophy that the present Government of India after assuming office. has purposefully sought to resolve old intractable problems and to build bridges of trust, understanding and cooperation with our neighbours. With reciprocal response, we hope to move relentlessly forward towards a new era in which we would be able to cement this confidence and work together for mutual benefit and for regional stability, instead of frittering away our precious resources on what has divided us in the past and could do so in the future.

We believe that a determined resolve to settle national bilateral problems peacefully can release the energies which in turn can enable our movement to play fully its positive role in facing major and critical world political and economic problems. We are pledged to fight to eliminate the last bastions of imperialism, colonialism and racism. Our movement has played a catalytic role in the promotion of detente. We look forward to the day when detente would be universalised, would fructify into disarmament and lead to the establishment of a new international economic order. The process, gradual though it may be, cannot be allowed to be arrested for temporary or tactical reasons. Just at present, one senses again some whiffs and propaganda smoke of the old cold war. The question is again being posed "confrontation

or cooperation"?

Our answer has always been unhesitatingly for cooperation. We welcomed the easing of tensions in Europe and growth of economic and functional exchanges across ideological frontiers. We want such cooperation to spread and intensify as it is so essential in this era of global interdependence. Just as unity of non-alignment is of overriding importance for the movement, the progress towards universal detente must be relentlessly pursued for the sake of -world peace and stability.

UNITED WILL OF AFRICA

In Southern Africa, the oppressive racist minority regimes continue to deny the basic rights to our African brethren. They must heed the changing times. Africa is awake and even the people of South Africa are now fired with the courage of defiance and liberation. The united will of Africa and the non-aligned will not tolerate apartheid; nor will they be duped or deceived by the fake freedom, if the substance of human dignity and democratic rights and equality is not well and truly enthroned to power.

The reported agreement in Luanda in accordance with the Security Council Resolution 385 of 1976, has raised hopes of a breakthrough for the independence and integrity of Namibia. However, it remains to be seen if this agreement would lead to genuine independence for Namibia on the basis of majority rule, truly representative of its people and free of South African domination or influence. We regard SWAPO as the sole and authentic representative of the people of Namibia. We also trust that Walvis Bay would be returned to and become an integral part of independent Namibia.

On Zimbabwe, we are with those who have rejected the internal settlement imposed by the illegal racist regime of Ian Smith. Nothing short of complete independence on the basis of democratically established majority African rule will meet the legitimate aspirations of the people of Zimbabwe. We sympathise with the frustration of freedom fighters and cannot but agree that in the

circumstances the liberation struggle must go on.

West Asia is yet another area of the world where no tangible progress has been achieved in bringing about a just and lasting solution. And yet if peace does not come to that area soon, the patience of the Arab States and peoples whose territories continue to be under the illegal occupation of Israel will run out, thus bringing nearer a bloodier conflict and dashing the hopes of the world now overwhelmingly impatient for a just solution.

The Palestinian people must be enabled to exercise their inalienable rights, including the right to have a state of their own. Israel must vacate the Arab territories occupied by it since 1967 and the rights of all States and peoples in the region to live in peace must

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be respected as a precondition to a lasting solution.

A speedy solution to the problem of Cyprus within the spirit of U.N. Resolutions and under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations must be reached on the basis of equality of the two Cypriot communities. We remain committed to the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-aligned status of Cyprus.

INDIAN OCEAN

The littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean have -called for the establishment of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. The realization of their aspirations unfortunately will not be possible without the full cooperation of great powers and major maritime users. We are distressed to learn that the de-militarisaton talks between the USA and USSR, even in their apparently limited scope, have been suspended or at least deferred. They must be resumed and the objective to establish the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace - so frequently affirmed - must be pursued with a sense of purposeful urgency.

The recent Special session of the U.N. General Assembly devoted to disarmament evokes mixed feelings in our minds. The very fact that the session took place is in itself a vindication for the non-aligned, who at the Colombo Summit took the initiative for calling such a conference. While the Session helped to focus attention of the world on the imperative need for general and complete disarmament under international control, its failure to adopt a time-bound programme of action in the field of disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, must be a matter of serious regret to us all.

India, along with other non-aligned countries made every effort to ensure the adoption of measures, particularly regarding code of conduct for the prevention of nuclear war and a moratorium on nuclear weapons testing pending the achievement of a comprehensive ban treaty., Our efforts were based on our commonly shared perception that the greatest threat to the survival of mankind comes from nuclear weapons and, therefore, it is imperative to outlaw their use. Unless efforts for real disarmament gather momentum, the fate of humanity will continue to hang in balance and peace will continue to remain in jeopardy. Moreover, valuable resources which could be fruitfully used for banishing poverty, squalor, disease and ignorance will continue to remain tied up in a mad arms race.

Mr. President, reviewing the interantional economic situation since the Colombo Summit, I must express my Government's grave concern at the disturbing trends which have appeared, retarding the efforts to establish a new international economic order. The rise in protectionism and retrograde policies followed by some developed countries in the field of trade and financial transfers are bound to have disastrous consequences for developing countries. Let it be noted that these policies would have cumulative adverse effect on world production and economic growth and also damage and prolong the economic malaise in the developed countries.

It is essential to achieve rapid break-

through in the North-South dialogue which has now come to the forums of the U.N. system. Protracted deliberations without any meaningful decisions would set at nought the efforts to sustain the cooperative approach in the resolution of the grave economic problems confronting the world economy.

THIRD DEVELOPMENT DECADE

One of the major tasks before the nonaligned and developing countries is to contribute to the formulation of the new international strategy for the third development decade. The new strategy should not merely be a declaration of pious intentions, but incorporate concrete commitments by the developed and developing countries to achieve a meaningful reversal of the widening chasm dividing the rich and the poor. The conceputal framework of the strategy must be geared to bringing about perceptible improvement in the position of the developing countries in the world economy.

While relations between developed and developing countries are important, equally important is the promotion of collective self-reliance and a higher level of economic cooperation among the non-aligned and developing countries. Only determined effort and seriousness of purpose can give concrete shape to these plans and programmes. it is, therefore, incumbent on us to ensure definitive implementation of the action programme for economic cooperation already elaborated by the non-aligned movement.

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The non-aligned press agencies pool has been able to stimulate exchange of news among the news agencies of an increasing number of non-aligned countries. It is now up to the Governments to take urgent measures to implement the recommendations made by the coordinating committee of the press agencies pool, particularly in the field of lowering of transmission costs, improvement of the communications infrastructure, training of professional and skilled personnel and increased use of mutual facilities and programmes.

In the field of science and technology, apart from offering to set up a non-aligned centre for science and technology, India has also recently hosted a meeting of the coordinating countries which have drawn up, inter alia, a set of measures to promote cooperation among the non-aligned countries in the field of science and technology for development. We will be presenting this Conference with a preliminary report on a study of complementarities of resources, technological know-how and industrial capacity in the nonaligned countries. We also propose to host a meeting later this year of consultancy organisations of interested non-aligned and other developing countries.

As we look to the future, the choice is clear. Either we choose the path of cooperation based on trust and equality or risk being consumed by mutual suspicion and hostility.

In this crises-ridden and over-armed world, the non-aligned movement must be determined to remain as the powerful voice of reason, sanity, peace and stability. It must look upon its task to be in the vanguard to fashion an international order which is just and stable.

RESOLVE

It is therefore incumbent on us to resist any policies which would debilitate our capacity for determined action. We must guard against any deviation from genuine nonalignment as it would leave us impoverished in strength and influence.

Let us be united in our resolve to consolidate our unity. We must preserve our cohesion without sacrificing our diversity and flexibility. We must avoid the temptation of using non-alignment to fulfil narrow and short-sighted objectives which can only weaken or divide us.

Belgrade to Belgrade is a story of the struggle for freedom from fear and against military dependence and conformity. Let the non-aligned movement through its unity and cohesion remain for nations, big and small, what it always sought to be, a bulwark for independence and equality or, as President Tito described it, as "The Conscience of Mankind".

YUGOSLAVIA USA DJIBOUTI PAKISTAN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA SUDAN SOUTH AFRICA ANGOLA NAMIBIA ZIMBABWE ISRAEL CYPRUS SRI LANKA

Date: Jul 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

Shri Vajpayee's Statement on Reported Construction of Karakoram Highway

The Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, made the following statement in Lok Sabha on July 21, 1978 on the reported construction of Karakoram Highway by Pakistan and China in the Pakistan occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir. This was in reply to a Calling Attention Notice by Shri Saugata Roy and three others:

As the House is aware, a road called "Karakoram Highway", linking Pakistan with China, and passing through Pakistan occupied Kashmir, was inaugurated on June 18, 1978, by Pakistan's Chief Martial Law Administrator, General Zia-ul-Haq and Chinese Vice-Premier Keng Piao, at Thakot. Plans for this road were mooted some time around 1963, soon after China and Pakistan entered into an agerement in accordance with which 2100 square miles of Indian territory in Jammu & Kashmir, under Pakistan's illegal occupation, was handed over to China. Construction of the portion of the road. bet-

ween Gilgit and Mor Khun was undertaken in accordance with an agreement reached in 1966 and was completed in 1969. The portion of the Highway from Mor Khun to Khunjreb has been built following an Agreement between the two countries which was signed on 21.10.1969. The road became fully operational on June 18, 1978.

According to reports, the 800 kilometer long Highway starts from Havelian Rail-Head, 60 miles north of Islamabad, and follows the general course of the River Indus from Thakot to Gilgit. From Gilgit onwards, it runs along the Gilgit, Hunza and Khunjerab rivers upto the Khunjerab Pass which is 15,800 feet above sea level. Beyond Khunjerab Pass this Highway is connected with the Chinese road network in Western Tibet which links with Kashghar in the Sinkiang Province. The elevation of this Highway varies from 2000 to about 15,000 feet.

The Government received confirmed news about the construction of the road in June 1969. A strong protest was accordingly lodged on 25th June, 1969 with both Pakistan and China. To Pakistan, we pointed out that the whole of Jammu and Kashmir was part of Indian territory and neither Pakistan nor China had any locus-standi in Kashmir, and, therefore, whatever action the two countries were taking singly or jointly against this territory of India was wholly illegal. In our protest note to the Chinese Government, we questioned their undertaking construction of a road in a territory lawfully belonging to India.

Neither Pakistan nor China formally replied to our protests. However, an official spokesman of Pakistan Foreign Office stated on 11th July, 1969 that India's complaint was based on premises which were not acceptable to them. The question was raised in the Parliament and a statement was made by the then Minister of External Affairs on July 23, 1989.

When we came across press reports. stating that the Highway was inaugurated on 18th June, 1978, the Chinese Ambassador

and Pakistan CDA in New Delhi were called to the Ministry of External Affairs and apprised of our position on the illegal construction of the road in a territory which is an integral part of India. It was made clear to the two envoys that India cannot acquiesce in the legal implications of the construction of this road.

In reply. the Government of Pakistan have stated that consistent with their position on Jammu and Kashmir they could not accept the validity of our protests. As regards China, while there has been no response so far from Peking, the Chinese Ambassador referred to his country's position in response to India's protest against the conclusion of the Agreement between China and Pakistan on 2nd March 1963, ceding 2100 square miles of Indian territory in the Pakistan occupied Kashmir to China. He recalled that the Chinese Government had stated at that time that the boundary agreement was a "provisional" one and hence the construction of the road would have no bearing on the status of Kashmir. It may be pertinent to recall that this agreement does include a provision according to which the boundary question is open to re-negotiation. I may mention here that the Karakoram Highway does not pass through the territory in Kashmir ceded by Pakistan to China.

Apart from the illegality of the construction of this Highway, this development also has serious startegic implications for this region. While we are fully alive to these implications, I would like to express the hope that our these neighbours, with both of whom we are trying to normalise our relations, would see to it that this communication link is not used in a manner that runs counter to the search for good neighbourliness and stability in this area.

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Date: Jul 01, 1978

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TURKEY

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

The following is the text of a press release of the speech by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri A. B. Vajpayee at a dinner in honour of Prof. Gunduz A. Okcun, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey and Mrs. Okcum in New Delhi an July 10, 1978. Proposing the toast Shri Vajpayee said:

Your Excellency and Madame Okcun, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to welcome Your Excellency, Madame Okcum and the members of your delegation to India. Your visit is short and may not afford us the opportunity of showing you as much of our country as we would have liked to. We do hope, however, that this visit would enable you to get an insight into a society in which the ancient and the modern, the tranquil and the tempestuous, blend harmoniously.

Turkey and India have enjoyed contacts that go back into history and which were revitalised at the beginning of this century. Your great leader Kamal Ataturk, who rejuvenated your nation into a modern, democratic and secular State, was a household word in this country, when we were still trying to shake off the yoke of colonial domination.

We are aware of the deep interest Turkish scholars have taken in India's history and culture. This interest in Indology is not new. Manuscripts of original works in Sanskrit were studied by Turkish scholars several hundred years ago. This interest continues to our day. Your distinguished Prime Minister is himself an Indologist of repute having to his credit, translations from

the writings of Poet Rabindranath Tagore.

Excellency, Turkey stands at the cross-roads of Asia and Europe. The personality of your nation is enriched by streams of history flowing across the faces of these two continents. It is a measure of your innate strength that notwithstanding these powerful influences, you have skilfully blended them into a culture and a personality that is essentially your own.

India too represents a synthesis of cultures. Although we do not stand at the cross-roads of continents, the genius of India has been assimilative. We have benefited from these external influences and have learnt to look forward to the future rather than dwell in the past.

Mahatma Gandhi had galvanised our freedom movement into a struggle of the entire people of India, regardless of caste and colour, creed or sex. It is but natural that on achieving independence, India should have striven to become a secular and democratic State, guaranteeing freedom and equal rights to all citizens without discrimination.

The same considerations motivated the Janata Government, when it came to power in March 1977, to rededicate itself to preserving the values enshrined in our Constitution and to ensure that the people of India live a life, free from fear and free from want.

The Government is committed to making certain that aberrations of the past few years, which threatened the very structure of our democratic society, shall not be allowed to grow again and it is in this spirit that the Government is endeavouring to strengthen democracy beyond the risk of abuse.

We recognise that if democracy is to survive and flourish, poverty must be eradicated and social justice secured. While our achievements on the economic front since independence have been impressive and have placed us amongst the top 10 industrial nations of the world, we are conscious of the fact that much remains yet to be done. Our

economic strategy therefore lays greater emphasis on agricultural development without neglecting industrial growth. We plan to develop a countrywide network of smallscale and cottage industries that should provide, along with greater job opportunities, a fuller sense of participation to the rural masses in the actual processes of production and nation-building.

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As a developing country, India believes that an environment of peace and stability is essential for economic growth. Being aware that India can contribute constructively towards stability and lessening of tensions in its region, the Janata Government has worked consistently to secure such peace and stability. We have, therefore, attached the highest priority to improving and strengthening relations with our neighbours. In the last 15 months, we have resolved a number of outstanding problems such as the sharing of Ganga Waters with Bangladesh, issues relating to Salal Dam with Pakistan and the Treaties on Trade and Transit and allied agreements with Nepal. These are but a few examples that demonstrate India's willingness to strengthen ties with its neighbours on the basis of sovereign equality and mutual benefit.

The Janata Government is pursuing a foreign policy based on genuine non-alignment and promotion of peace and cooperation among all nations. This policy is an expression of our historical experience and the projection of the spirit of independence and self-reliance seeking complementarity with nations that have a like-minded approach to international peace, stability and cooperation. It is not surprising that the non-aligned movement should continue to grow strong and attract ever new adherents.

We recognise the important role played by Turkey in the European Conference on Security and Cooperation, thereby contributing to the relaxation of tensions in Europe. However, to be truly meaningful, relaxation of tensions must not remain limited to one particular region; it must spread over the globe.

Excellency, during your first day of a rather heavy schedule, you have already met my colleagues, the Minister of Commerce and the Minister of Industry. The high officials accompanying you would also have an opportunity of discussing with their Indian counterparts the prospects for mutually beneficial cooperation between our two countries. I would, therefore, be justified in saying that your visit will be a new landmark in Indo-Turkish relations and will not merely strengthen further but also add meaningful content to the ties that bind our two countries.

I take this opportunity to wish Your Excellency, Madame Okcun and members of your delegation, a very happy stay in our country. Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I now ask you to join me in a toast to the health of their Excellencies Dr. Gunduz Okcun and Madame Okcun, and to the strengthening of Indo-Turkish relations to the advantage of our two peoples.

TURKEY INDIA USA BANGLADESH PAKISTAN NEPAL

Date: Jul 01, 1978

Volume No

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TURKEY

H.E. Mr. Okcun's Reply

Replying to the toast, H.E. Prof. Gunduz A. Okcun, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey said:

Excellency, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you for your very kind words concerning Turkey and the

Turkish People and the relations between our two countries.

Since we came to office five months ago, one of the most important foreign policy principles the new Turkish Government has pursued with determination and due priority has been the promotion of our relations with all countries. I shall indeed be very happy if during my stay in your beautiful country as a result of the gracious invitation extended to me, we can have the opportunity to further develop and bring concrete contributions to the Turkish-Indian relations.

There are mutual feelings of respect and understanding between our nations. Turkey closely observes India's role in the international scene as a non-aligned country and the way in which this policy is implemented for the progress of all humanity. On the other hand, the tireless endeavours of the Indian nation, with the support of its material and spiritual assets, to attain the level of welfare it deserves, are admired by the Turkish Nation.

Our world is still aspiring for a peace based on sound foundations; for liberties and for living conditions compatible with human dignity to spread in a balanced manner throughout the world. We are in search of a new world order that would enable every community and every free individual to have

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a more equitable share of the fruits of civilization and progress.

Turkey is making every effort for the realization of such an order and for the establishment of a just and lasting peace. While striving to further develop its foreign relations within a general context, it is also pursuing a policy to bring about a medium of mutual trust, solidarity and close cooperation in its own region. Since its coming to power, the Turkish Government has been making every effort to achieve friendship and cooperation with Greece, our only neighbour

with whom we have problems adversely affecting our relations.

Excellency, the prolongation of problems in any particular region inevitably leads to a tendency of interference by outside nations. Consequently, problems that could otherwise be resolved easily become difficult and complex.

Cyprus is a vivid example in this respect. The longer this problem, which in essence involves two national communities on a small island in our region, keeps on dragging, the stronger is this tendency of intervention from outside, which makes the resolution of the conflict all the more difficult. When our government came to office, we proceed to take all the necessary steps to find an early solution to the problem through intercommunal talks. However it is obvious that such initiatives can lead to positive results only if the other parties involved are willing to assume their respective responsibilities.

The speedy establishment of a bi-zonal, bi-communal, independent and non-aligned federal state in Cyprus that would prevent the recurrence of past frictions and place on sound foundations the freedom and security of both communities, would also have positive effects of Turkish Greek relations by bringing peace to the island's people while at the same time contributing to the stability of the region.

Today, adoption and successful implementation of a federal system by many nations which have realistically responded to the special conditions and requirements of their countries has encouraged us in proposing a federal solution in Cyprus, which is composed of two distinct communities.

The Middle East problems continue to be the most important international conflict. We sincerely wish that this major problem of our region can be settled as soon as possible through peaceful means. Our conviction remains to that for a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement in the area, all the occupied Arab territories must be evacuated and the national legitimate rights of the

Palestinian people, including their right to establish an independent state must be recognized.

In Africa, we observe with regret and concern the emergence of conflicts occasionally leading to armed clashes. mostly through foreign influence; while at the same time, we remain totally opposed to the insistence on racial discrimination as a means of exploitation and consider it both anachronistic with our civilization and incompatible with humanity. If spreading and strengthening peace, stability and the policy of detente throughout the world is what we really aspire for, then it is imperative that the African nations should be able to determine their future by themselves. and be free from outside interventions in dealing with their own problems.

Our Government considers that the process of detente can be rendered more realistic and reliable through maximum contributions by all countries aspiring to peace. Speeding up the search for an equitable new economic order, bringing an end to the armaments race which is just as responsible for the continuing human poverty as the system of exploitation require the participation and sincere efforts of all the nations. We are aware that the developing nations, which have a vested interest in progress towards the establishment of such an international order, should lead the search and endeavours to this effect.

Excellency, I am convinced that Turkey and India, despite the geographic distance between their countries, will have a mutually beneficial cooperation in promoting their bilateral relations, as well as in further developing international peace and stability. I believe that our intention to create and spread a circle of peace and cooperation around Turkey also complies with our objective to develop our relations with India and its noble people.

With these feelings, I propose a toast to Your Excellencies health and happiness, to the welfare and the prosperity of the great Indian nation, and to the future of TurkishIndian relations.

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TURKEY USA INDIA GREECE CYPRUS

Date: Jul 01, 1978

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TURKEY

Cultural Exchange Programme Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on July 12, 1978 on the signing of the cultural exchange programme:

An Indo-Turkish Cultural Exchange Programme for the period 1978-80 was signed in New Delhi on July 12, 1978. The Union Minister for Education, Social Welfare and Culture, Dr. P. C. Chunder, and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, H.E. Prof. Gunduz A. Okcun, signed on behalf of their respective Governments.

The programme envisages, among other things, cooperation between the two countries in the field of education, art and culture, sports and youth activities and mass media. Besides encouraging cooperation between the universities and educational institutions of the two countries, India and Turkey will provide scholarships to each others' scholars. Short study tours for scholars and students will also be organised.

While a Chair of Indian studies already exists in the Ankara University, a Chair of Turkish studies will be set up in an Indian university.

Both sides will also collaborate in establishing a joint group of historians and scholars with a view to doing research and studying in historical and cultural heritage of the two countries.

The two countries will also endeavour to establish equivalence of degrees and diplomas awarded by schools, universities and institutions of higher learning in India and Turkey.

In the field of art and culture, Turkish Indologists and Indian archaeologists and epigraphists will visit each other's country. Collaborative programmes between the national museums of the two countries will be encouraged. In addition, performing groups and individual artistes, art exhibitions, photographs and art publications and objects will also be exchanged.

The programme also provides for exchange of T.V. and Radio programmes, gramophone records and tapes. Festivals of feature and documentary films will also be held.

In the field of sports and youth activities, India and Turkey will cooperate in exchange of visits by sports-teams, coaches and persons engaged in the organisation of these activities.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Chunder said that Turkey was the first country with which India signed a cultural agreement in 1951 and this cultural exchange programme had been signed in pursuance of the Agreement. The programme had been finalised of discussions between the officials of the two countries and takes into account the age-old traditions of friendship and cultural ties which have existed between Turkey and India, he said.

Referring to the age-old traditional and friendly ties between the two countries, Prof. Okcun said that there were many common traits between cultures of India and Turkey.

TURKEY INDIA USA

Date: Jul 01, 1978

Volume No

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TURKEY

Joint Communique

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on July 13, 1978 on the Indo-Turkey Joint Communique:

At the invitation of the Minister of External Affairs of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, His Excellency Mr. A. Gunduz Okcun, paid an official visit to India from July 10 to July 13, 1978.

During the course of the visit, the Foreign Minister of Turkey and the members of his delegation laid a wreath at the Raj Ghat as a mark of homage to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi. The Foreign Minister of Turkey was received by His Excellency Shri B. D. Jatti, the Vice-President, and Shri Morarji Desai, the Prime Minister of India. He also had useful discussions with Shri P. C.

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Chunder, Minister of Education & Culture, Shri Mohan Dharia, Minister of Commerce, and Shri George Fernandes, Minister of Industry.

The Foreign Minister and his delegation visited some historic sites and places of cultural and industrial interest near Delhi, including Agra, and thus acquainted themselves with the cultural heritage of the people of India and their progress in modern technology.

The Foreign Minister of Turkey held

official talks with the Minister of External Affairs of India which took place in an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual understanding and reflected the historic ties between the two peoples and the friendly relations that exist between the two countries. These talks covered a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest and confirmed the common desire of the two countries to consolidate and develop bilateral relations as well as to contribute to the promotion of international peace and stability.

In the official talks the Foreign Minister of Turkey was assisted by:

H.E. Mr. Oktay Iscen, Ambassador of Turkey to India; H.E. Mr. Vahap Asiroglu, Assistant Secretary General for Cultural and Information Affairs; Mr. Ayhan Karlidag, Deputy Under Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Technology; Mr. Erdogan Sanalan, Head of the Department of Middle East and Africa; Mr. Metin Kustaloglu, Acting Head of the Department of Bilateral Economic Relations; Mr. Oktay Aksoy, Special Advisor to the Minister; and Mr. Mithat Balkan, Chief of Section, Department of Middle East and Africa,

and the Minister of External Affairs of India was assisted by:

Shri Jagat Mehta, Foreign Secretary; Shri M. A. Vellodi, Secretary (East); Shri U. S. Bajpai, Secretary (West); Shri S. Shahabuddin, Joint Secretary (EW); Shri S. V. Purushottam, Joint Secretary (XP); Shri V. K. Grover, O.S.D. (WANA); and Shri R. N. Mulye, Director (UNP).

The two Ministers noted with satisfaction that in a period of important developments on the international scene, the problem of maintaining world peace has acquired new dimensions. In this context, they expressed their belief that it was necessary for the international community to perservere in the quest for peace and strive for relaxation of tensions in all parts of the world.

They both agreed that this policy should be permanent, universal and comprehensive.

The two Ministers reviewed the situation in Asia and Europe and took note of the positive developments taking place in their regions.

The two Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the progress towards normalisation of relations and the emergence of a new climate of understanding among the States of the Sub-continent and reiterated their belief that good neighbourly cooperation among them would constitute an important contribution to the stability, peace and prosperity of the region.

The two Ministers had a useful exchange of views regarding the Cyprus question and once again reiterated their support for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-aligned status of Cyprus. They agreed that the Cyprus question should be resolved without undue delay through serious and meaningful negotiations between the Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities on an equal footing.

While noting that the Agreement concluded in Nicosia on February 12, 1977, in the presence of U.N. Secretary General, was a step in the right direction, the two Ministers stressed the need for an urgent and effective solution of the question of Cyprus.

With regard to the Middle East, the two Ministers expressed their disappointment that no significant progress had been made towards a just and lasting settlement and stressed their support to the struggle of the Palestinian people for the restoration of their legitimate and inalienable national rights, including the right to establish a state of their own. They also reiterated their view that Israel must vacate all Arab territories occupied since 1967 and that the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states in the region should be respected. They urged that all possible efforts should be made by all concerned to find a just and lasting solution of the problem in the interest of peace.

The two Ministers expressed their concern at recent developments in Africa and reiterated their support to the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia who are struggling for their liberation. They condemned the repressive and anti-democratic policies of the South African regime and the persistent denial of basic human rights to the majority of the South African people. They called for the eradication of apartheid in all its manifestations and for effective implementation of international sanctions. The two Ministers felt that the African continent must be freed from all vestiges of colonialism and racism and from foreign interference. The problems of Africa should be resolved by the Africans themselves in accordance with the principles and resolution of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity.

The two Ministers reiterated their support to the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, noted that it had the support of the overwhelming majority of the littoral and the hinterland States and expressed the hope for its early implementation.

The two Ministers, considering the question of disarmament, expressed their deep concern at the ever escalating arms race, including the nuclear arms race, and reiterated their belief that mankind must move towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. In this connection, they reviewed the recent Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Disarmament and while expressing the view that the results achieved did not come up to the expectations of the world community, they recognised its positive contribution in establishing the primary role of the United Nations in this field, through the establishment of an adequate machinery within the United Nations system for future deliberations and negotiations on disarmament.

The two Ministers expressed concern at the slow progress in the establishment of the

New International Economic Order. They noted that so far the results of international action had fallen far short of its objectives and the expectations of the developing countries. They believed that the latter should take the lead in further international efforts for achieving concrete results and called upon the industrialised countries to extend their full cooperation in these efforts.

The two Ministers reviewed Indo-Turkish relations in various fields. They examined in detail the prospects of economic cooperation between the two countries and affirmed their intention to promote trade and cooperation in the industrial and technical fields. They decided that the Joint Committee envisaged in the Trade Agreement of 1973 would meet this year to discuss expansion of bilateral trade. An agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation was signed during the visit.

The two Ministers agreed that science and technology provided an area of growing importance for bilateral coopeartion and decided that a time-bound Working Programme under the existing Agreement on Cooperation in Science and Technology should be formulated by the authorities concerned at an early date.

The two Ministers also reviewed the implementation of the Cultural Agreement of 1951. A Protocol on Cultural Exchange between the two countries for the period 1978-80 was signed, which would contribute to the reinforcement of their historic cultural ties.

The two Ministers emphasised the importance and necessity of continuous contacts at various levels between the two countries.

The Foreign Minister of Turkey expressed to the Minister of External Affairs of India his gratitude for the warm reception and cordial hospitality accorded to himself and the members of his delegation during their visit to India.

The Foreign Minister of Turkey extended an invitation to the Minister of External Affairs of India to pay an official visit to

Turkey. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

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TURKEY INDIA USA MALI PERU CYPRUS ISRAEL NAMIBIA ZIMBABWE SOUTH AFRICA

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UNITED NATIONS

Speech by Shri Kundu at ECOSOC Session

The following statement was made by Shri Samarendra Kundu, Minister of State for External Affairs at the Economic and Social Council, Geneva second session on July 10 1978:

Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure today to address this year's second regular session of the Economic and Social Council. It is after a lapse of four years that my country is participating as a member in the deliberations of the Council. This session is important because the Council will be debating issues which have a critical bearing on the fate of mankind and also because this permanent organ of the United Nations is a vital continuing link in the dialogue to build a New International Economic Order. I sincerely hope that after re-organisation, the Council will come into its own and do full justice to the role assigned to it by the Charter.

The international economy remains beset by the malaise that afflicted it soon after the commencement of the current United Nations Development Decade. For the fourth year in succession, the developed market economies had to contend with high rates of inflation and unemployment, sluggish growth of gross domestic product, volatile capital movements contributing to chronic instability in exchange markets and growing resistance to structural changes. The forecast for 1978 is again one of slow rate of growth and the continuance of stagflation and balance-of-payments problems.

These problems have led the developed market economy countries to resort to inward-looking remedies and corrections. There has been a rise of protectionism, a slow-down in the transfer of resources, and a general lack of concern about the consequences of their actions on the developing countries. The economic policies of many of the developed nations seem to be dictated by the exigencies of their short-term interest. The broader vision of the Charter seems to have been lost sight of and there is a retreat from the high ideals of the immediate post-war years.

The recrudescence of protectionist trends is a matter for grave concern. Selective import restrictions and other non-tariff barriers increased in incidence and scope to an even greater degree in 1977 than in the previous year. The so-called orderly market arrangements as an alternative to unilateral restrictions increased in number during the year; by mid-1977, I believe, more than 30 bilateral restrictive agreements were concluded. Protectionist measures have not made a distinction between developed and developing countries and have hit precisely those industries in developing countries in which they have comparative advantage by virtue of their natural endowments.

This has two serious consequences. Firstly, under-utilisation of capacity in these industries and their possible closure will lead to massive unemployment in our countries. Secondly, the balance of payments of developing countries will be further weakened at a time when there is no assurance of an adequate volume of transfer of resources. Unlike the developed countries, we have neither the resources nor the structural and technological

flexibility to provide adjustment assistance and alternative opportunities for employment to the labour force by shifting resources to other fields. Thus, these protectionist measures result in the retardation of the economies of the developing countries and, in the long run, of the world economy as a whole.

Unless effective remedial action is taken, we risk entering an era of generalised restrictions. This is happening at a time when notable advances have been made in the field of trade liberalisation through removal of tariff barriers, particularly among developed countries. It is indeed a strange irony that while the trade liberalisation potential of the General Agreement has been sought to be fully utilised through a series of multilateral tariff negotiations, provisions of the General Agreement permitting import restrictions in exceptional circumstances are being used in

272 a generalised manner. Surely this is not in the spirit of the Agreement.

NEW STRATEGY

Mr. President, we are approaching the end of the Second Development Decade and have already taken in hand preparations for the Third Development Decade. Let us build the new strategy on a solid normative foundation. We agree with the conclusion of the Committee for Development Planning that much of the substance and approach of the strategy for the Second Development Decade remains valid. The strategy for the 1970s represented a decisive departure for, unlike the strategy for the First Development Decade, which was merely a declaration of pious intentions, it sought to specify a set of mutually consistent goals and objective and to lay down the obligations and commitments required to fulfil them. By establishing quantitative targets and time limits for achieving them, it provided a framework of accountability and benchmarks for monitoring progress, This approach must be preserved and further consolidated and should

be the starting point for the formulation of the strategy for the 1980s.

At the same time, the new strategy cannot ignore the recent momentous changes that have taken place in the world economy and the wide-ranging debate on global economic issues that has been carried on since 1973. The most important feature has been the adoption at the sixth special session of the General Assembly of a Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and a Programme of Action to implement it. We cannot ignore the important shifts of vision that have taken place after the sixth and seventh special sessions of the General Assembly, such as the desire of the developing countries to take full control of their natural resources as an instrument for their economic liberation, the increase in the share of the developing countries in the world industrial output as defined in the Lima Declaration, and increasing reliance on mutual co-operation among developing countries.

It has been suggested that the new International Development Strategy should give pride of place to such social objectives as redistributional justice, removal of unemployment, expansion of educational and health facilities, conquering malnutrition and ensuring the participation of the masses in the process of, development. These objectives, Mr. President are what development is all about. All the national development plans pay tribute to these objectives and many developing countries place the social objectives in the very centre of their development plans.

In India, since the Janata Government came to power, there has been a decisive shift in priorities towards the fulfilment, of social objectives and satisfying basic needs such as clean drinking water, health care, adult and elementary education, rural roads, and rural housing for the landless, among others. We have, therefore, accorded the highest priority to agriculture, integrated rural development and village and small-scale industries. The increase in the outlay in this year's budget on rural roads, rural water supply, rural

small-scale industries. development of drought prone areas and welfare of the backward classes was more than that during any single year before.

The emphasis placed on such issues in national development plans cannot divert our attention from the need for restructuring world economic relationships as envisaged in the Declaration and Programme of Action for Establishing a New International Economic Order. Disparity in wealth and living standards among nations is as much an area of legitimate concern as is the plight of the poorest sections of society and must be adequately reflected in the new International Development Strategy.

Mr. President, it is necessary for us to achieve tangible progress in the dialogue going on in various forums. My Government attaches great importance to the early establishment of a Common Fund for Commodities as envisaged in UNCTAD's Integrated Programme for Commodities. We earnestly hope that the consultations undertaken by the Secretary General of UNCTAD will lead to the early resumption of the negotiating conference.

The Multilateral Trade Negotiations, launched by the Tokyo Declaration of September 1973, are currently in their final phase. We are convinced that unless industrialised countries adopt a much more understanding and far-sighted attitude, the negotiations would not achieve the stated objective of additional benefits for the international trade of developing countries. Given the fact that we

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Are fashioning the world trade system for the 1980s, we must not miss this opportunity of improving that system in ways that would respond both to the needs of the development process as well as to the potentialities for creative complementarities.

The work under the aegis of UNCTAD on the Code of Conduct for Transfer of Technology has reached a fairly advanced stage. My delegation hopes that the U.N. Conference

on the subject scheduled for October 1978 would be able to finalise and adopt the Code which has been under discussion since the last UNCTAD Conference. For this purpose, it is essential that between now and the October Conference, the remaining differences should receive attention and be resolved.

Mr. President. science and technology provide tools by which for the first time in history, poverty, ignorance and destitution can be banished from the surface of the earth. But to do so, science and technology must be utilised with social purpose and be socially controlled in order to meet the challenges of genuine development, to facilitate the use and control of indigenous resources, to promote self-reliance and to be addressed to those priorities which constitute the very purpose of development.

We, therefore, attach the highest importance to the forthcoming U.N. Conference on the Application of Science and Technology to Development. This will give the international community a unique opportunity to discuss all relevant issues in their interrelationship to each other and to broader social and political purposes and ideals. The forthcoming Conference will be discussing these issues in the context of the changes that have taken place in objectives and approach relating to this subject, both at the national and international levels. Science and technology are no longer regarded as a separate sector but affect the whole economy and society. Many Governments in the developing countries have already adopted science and technology policies as an integral part of their development plans. There is also a shift of emphasis from the mere transfer of technology from developed countries to building the scientific and technological capabilities of the developing countries.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

In this challenging area of international cooperation, we have pledged co-operation among developing countries themselves in promoting systematic exchanges of information concerning experience in the formulation and implementation of science policies

and plans, in building science and technology infrastructure and in the acquisition, development, adoption and application of science and technology.

Development of appropriate technology suited to our requirements and designed to utilise indigenous resources is particularly important for our countries. Such a technology is essential if employment is to be increased and incomes are to be raised above the poverty line, It should be based on maximum utilisation of our human resources, while preserving human dignity. As Mahatma Gandhi very rightly pointed out, whereas the use-of machines cannot be dispensed with, we should re-order our society in such a manner that machines do not become the master of man.

At the same time, the developing countries will continue to be in need of the inflow of advanced technology from developed countries and trans-national corporations. However, there should be a drastic transformation of the purpose, mode and mechanism of such transfers. They should be appropriately guided and regulated in order to ensure that they become an integral part of the development effort of the developing countries and do not come in the way of developing countries building their own capabilities.

An important item on the agenda of this session of the Council is review of progress in the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations. It is not my intention here to enter into the various issues in the debate on restructuring and I shall confine myself to a few remaks of a general nature. Firstly, my delegation believes that restructuring should not be allowed to become a self-perpetuating process, thereby leaving this august body less time to devote to issues of substance. Secondly, the restructuring exercise cannot be separated from the problem of finding adequate resources for the activities of the UN system. The resources constraint is responsible for many of the institutional anomalies that have developed over the past few years, such as ad-hoc programming, establishment of institutions outside the UN system, increasing

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grammes and general decline in cohesion and co-operation among UN agencies. So Ion as the resources constraint remains, even the most streamlined and elegant organisational super-structure will be of no avail.

One of the principal aims of the new strategy should be to promote cooperation among developing countries. Time does not permit me to dilate on the immense potentialities that exist in this field and on the new forms which cooperation among developing countries is increasingly acquiring-The Asian continent is particularly poised for making big strides in this sphere. In our sub-continent, we have succeeded in generating an atmosphere of mutual trust and goodwill and in dispelling suspicion and misapprehension, thus creating propitious preconditions for economic cooperation. Regional cooperation in the entire ESCAP region appears to have gathered momentum in the past year. The transactions under the Asian Clearing Union increased more than threefold between 1976 and 1977. India will soon he hosting a Conference of the Trade Ministers of the ESCAP region to formulate a blue-print for regional cooperation including the necessary institutional machinery.

The present relatively favourable economic position of the ESCAP developing countries gives them the opportunity for enhanced regional economic cooperation. India has shared and contributed to this development. To cite a few indicators, during 1977-78, which coincided with the first year of the Janata rule, GDP is estimated to have gone up by 6 percent as compared to an increase of 1.6 percent in 1976-77. Agricultural production increased by 11-12 percent. Foodgrain output during 1977-78 reached a new peak level of over 125 million tonnes, some 4 million tonnes higher than the previous record attained in 1975-76. An estimated 2.8 million hectares of additional area was brought under irrigation, which is a record achievement for a single year for any country in the world. There was a further accretion to our foreign exchange reserves enabling us to adopt a more flexible import policy to meet the essential needs of the economy. It is significant that the higher rate of growth of the economy was achieved within the framework of comparative price stability. While inflation was plaguing most of the economies of the world, prices in India showed a small but welcome decline.

DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. President, the Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament concluded its deliberations just before the Commencement of this session of the Council. I need hardly emphasise the significance of the Special Session not only for international peace and security but also for the attainment of a more just and equitable international economic order. There is an intimate link between disarmament and development. More than \$ 400 billion are being spent every year on an arms race that diverts in a wasteful direction not only resources needed for developmental purposes but also the skill and ingenuity of a large number of scientists and technicians. If even a small portion of these resources were diverted for development purposess, it would radically transform the development prospects of the developing countries.

Finally, I must refer to the sad plight of the Committee of the Whole, established by the General Assembly at its 32nd Session. In the opinion of my delegation, the establishment of this Committee was an extremely important development in that it restored to the General Assembly- the highest international forum, the responsibility for negotiations relating to critical international economic issues. The first meeting of the Committee proved inconclusive because of differences between developed and developing countries on its role and functions. The terms of reference of the Committee are wide. Given the political will to make progress, I see no reason why the Committee cannot effectively discharge its assigned role. I sincerely hope that the September meeting of the Committee will provide evidence of

the will and commitment on the part of both developed and developing countries meaningfully to continue the dialogue on global economic issues and make progress towards them.

According to Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our Nation, the goal of self-reliance is not to be pursued against anyone or in any exclusive fashion. Self-reliance for him was a composite integrated concept according to which individual, village and national self-reliance reinforced each other, each being an

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Indispensable link in the chain and contributing to the goal of global cooperation and inter-dependence. In this scheme of things, the ultimate goal is the uplift of the individual, both materially and spiritually, to liberate him from the infirmities and humiliations of poverty and also to redeem him from fear, greed and violence. I trust that the deliberations in this Council will provide necessary political directions to help realise this ultimate goal of development and, for that matter, of all human endeavour.

Before I conclude, I must remind this august gathering of our solemn undertaking way back in 1973 when we adopted the Declaration on the Establishment of the New International Economic Order and raised great hopes in mankind to live a decent life with honour and dignity. We then said: "We shall correct inequality and redress existing injustice, make it possible to eliminate the widening gap between the developed and developing countries and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generations.... " In our irresistible desire to see the fructification of the undertaking so set out, we had gone ahead and committed to the people that the Declaration "shall be one of the most important bases of economic relations between all peoples and all nations." Therefore, this has been a charter of hope mainly for the millions of suffering humanity. Failure to put it into effect would, therefore, not only be unethical but would also appear to be a breach of faith with mankind in its

aspirations for a better life which has been denied to It for no fault of Its own. However, the trends and results so far have been disappointing. The ominous clouds of greed, selfishness, distrust, fear, unresponsiveness to the needs of others, acquisition of new forms of consumer habits have cast a deep shadow on our commitments. The gap between the haves and have-nots, instead of being narrowed, has widened. The mad armament race goes on unabated when twothirds of the population goes to bed without a proper meal. The question, therefore, is whether we will have the courage of our convictions and the political will and determination to accept the gauntlet or not. The restive people are looking at the deliberations of this important Council with great hope and expectation. We have no right to play with their hopes and turn them into dupes. As it has been said, we cannot leave the coming generation a legacy of want and confrontation. Therefore, I plead that everything possible should be done to help the people combat abysmal poverty, ignorance, squalor and disease. I must tell you with all humility that unless solutions are found in the foreseeable future, the resurgent people of the developing countries could not be expected to remain passive spectators.

Let us, therefore, before time runs out, make another attempt at giving concrete shape to the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration of the New International Economic Order so that the world should be a better place for all to live.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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Date: Aug 01, 1978

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ALGERIA

India-Algeria Sign Memorandum of Understanding

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on August 31, 1978 oil the signing of a Memorandum of understanding between India and Algeria:

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Algerian Economic and Technical Delegation led by Mr. Mourad Bencheikh, Director for Economic and Financial relations, Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the leader of the Indian Delegation, Shri V. K. Grover, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs. The Algerian Economic Delegation arrived in India on August 27 to have discussions on all areas in which India and Algeria could cooperate in the economic field. This is the first time that a comprehensive review of economic relations between the two countries has taken place.

The Memorandum of Understanding covers commercial relations, economic and industrial cooperation, and sharing of technical know-how.

A Trade Agreement signed on February 10, 1976, provides for a framework for increasing commercial exchanges. Algerian global imports amount to Rs. 6000 crores per year and the Indian share is only four

crores per annum. Both sides have identified commodities which they can purchase from each other and it is expected that the volume of trade between the two countries will rise considerably.

There are number of commercial transactions/projects under negotiation between Indian firms and Algerian enterprises and both sides noted with satisfaction that negotiations had reached an advanced stage.

In keeping with the Indian desire to have maximum technical cooperation with developing countries, the Indian side has offered to share technical know-how and assist Algeria in setting up projects/manufacturing units. A specific proposal had been made by India for the construction of five heavy machine building plants in Algeria, where India has offered total assistance for surveys, planning, designs, consultancy, project execution, erection, commissioning, training etc.

INDIAN EXPERTS IN ALGERIA

There are a number of Indian experts working in Algeria at present and the Algerian side has expressed satisfaction on their performance. India has agreed to meet Algerian requirements of Indian experts to the extent possible, once details regarding job descriptions, etc., are made available.

The Algerian Minister of Trade and the Algerian Minister for Heavy Industry are likely to visit India before the end of the year. Drafts have been exchanged by the two countries on a Technical and Scientific Cooperation Agreement and it is expected that this Agreement will be signed before the end of 1978.

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ALGERIA INDIA USA RUSSIA

Date: Aug 01, 1978

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BANGLADESH

Indo-Bangladesh Joint Press Statement

The following is the text of a joint press statement issued in Dacca on August 14, 1978 after the signing of a memorandum of understanding between India and Bangladesh to facilitate Nepal's trade with Bangladesh and with third countries through the territories of India and Bangladesh:

An Indian delegation led by Mr. G. S. Sawhney, Member (Customs) and Additional Secretary, Ministry of Finance, visited Bangladesh from August 11-14, 1978, to conclude arrangements/procedures with Bangladesh to facilitate Nepal's trade with Bangladesh and with Third countries through the territories of India and Bangladesh. The Bangladesh delegation was led by Mr. S. B. Chaudhury, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce.

The Indian delegation called on H.E. Mr. Mohamed Saifur Rahman, Minister for Commerce, and Mr. M. Matiur Rahman, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, of the Government of Bangladesh.

The talks were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere and resulted in the signing of a memorandum of understanding today.

The talks between the two delegations were guided by the desire to implement the provisions of the letters on the subject exchanged, between India and Nepal on 17th March, 1978, as appended to the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Transit-1978 and of the Transit Agreement between Bangladesh and Nepal of April, 1976.

The Memorandum of Understanding provides for the expeditious and smooth movement of "Traffic in Transit" to start with through the agreed rail route of Radhikapur in India and Biral in Bangladesh and for the related customs and other procedures. It was agreed by both delegations that the procedures as applicable under the protocol and memorandum to the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Transit, 1978 shall apply to Nepal's "Traffic-in-Transit" in the territory of India. Similarly, the procedures as envisaged in the protocol to the Bangladesh-Nepal Transit Agreement, 1976, shall apply to Nepal's "Traffic-in-Transit" in the territory of Bangladesh.

The signing of this memorandum of understanding is expected to facilitate Nepal's overland trade with Bangladesh.

The agreement reached between Bangladesh and India also provides for periodical consultations between officials of the two Governments to ensure smooth and speedy movement of goods in transit.

The procedures and arrangements envisaged in the memorandum of understanding will come into force on the 15th September, 1978.

The leader of the Indian delegation thanked the Government of Bangladesh for the warmth of the reception and the hospitality extended to the Indian Delegation during its stay in Dacca.

BANGLADESH USA INDIA NEPAL

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HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Foreign Minister's Address at Seminar on "India's Foreign Policy in a Changing World"

The following is the inaugural address at the Seminar on "India's Foreign Policy in a Changing World" by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs, at New Delhi on August 5, 1978:

I am grateful to the All-India Peace and Solidarity Organisation for having invited me to inaugurate this Seminar.

The theme of a choice of foreign policy in a changing international situation is a recurring and repetitive one. Running as a red thread through the variety of choices, which are becoming increasingly limited in a world made smaller by the gallop of technology, is the resolute pursuit of national interest.

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The foreign policy of any country is the product of its national experience, historical as well as contemporaneous, and its interaction with the constantly shifting situations and perceptions in the international sphere. While the ingredients of assessing this interaction in the crucible of international politics remain essentially the same, sometimes the changed situation and the peculiar co-ordinates of a novel situation demand the use of a new catalyst.

The world situation today is characterised by two conflicting trends. On the one hand, there is the compelling logic of interdependence which the rapid growth of science and technology and the dwindling resources of this planet have brought home to the world community.

On the other hand, we are witness to a serious set-back to the process of detente, generating in turn new tensions and conflicts. There is altogether too much emphasis on narrow national, regional, religious and ideological considerations tending to undermine confidence and understading among nations. The tendency to exploit national obsessions and bilateral differences to snatch strategic

advantages is growing.

In this somewhat confusing picture, the relevance of non-alignment or, as our Prime Minister put it, alignment with all, has emerged with greater conviction and force. The manner in which detente has been strained in recent months, indicates that the acceptance of peaceful co-existence on the part of some powers as the most civilised means of conducting international relations, lacks lasting commitment. Constructive and genuine co-existence, as different from tactical, has been the central message of non-alignment with its emphasis on cooperation irrespective of national differences and tolerance of conflicting ideologies.

NON-ALIGNMENT

The phenomenon of non-alignment has, like the Delphic Oracle, meant different things to different people. In its chemistry, nations have seen varied hues depending upon their own political vision and ideological proclivity. Its own distinctive character, derived from the once subject peoples' national experience of struggle against domination and exploitation, did not always receive sufficient recognition.

I think you would agree with me that today the validity of nonalignment, based as it is on independence of judgement and a common faith in inter-dependence, is ackowledged universally. Even those, who were its detractors or at least cynical sceptics not so long ago, have begun to see it as a factor for peace and stability.

It would not be out of place to remind ourselves of the fortunes of those newly emergent nations who consciously chose the path of alignment to multilateral military and ideological systems. They were thereby inevitably drawn into the vortex of great power rivalry, which reduced their capacity for independent judgement and simultaneously placed severe constraints on the growth of healthy democratic institutions at home. With frightening regularity, their societies saw their democratic institutions being eroded or superseded by military-bureaucratic

elites to the detriment of the interests of the people and the nation.

It is not surprising, therefore, that several of those countries are now anxious to associate themselves more and more with the non-aligned movement. We welcome this trend and it would be our endeavour to encourage it, though we would expect that this represents a genuine change of heart and not a tactical manoeuvre for a limited gain.

It has never been our case that nonaligned countries should have the veneer of dull uniformity, identity of convictions or conformity to the ideology of a single social system. In fact, the philosophy of nonalignment is the exact anti-thesis of conformism and pre-determination induced, if not dictated, by allegiance to alliance systems.

BELGRADE CONFERENCE

The existence of differences among nonaligned nations should not, therefore, be surprising. They are the natural product of diversity and have existed from the very beginning of the movement. The Belgrade Conference proved that the presence of differing view-points and assessments of given situations is not such an unmitigated disaster as was sought to be made out by some interested circles. It was amply demonstrated that the will of non-aligned to unity and awareness of the advantages of unity and cooperation is overwhelmingly stronger than any discord or divergences.

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We have nevertheless to be vigilant and not permit ourselves to be lulled into the stupor of complacency and self-congratulation.

There were some issues at Belgrade that generated a lot of passion and at times bitterness. What does a country do when its territorial integrity is violated and it finds itself unable to organise its self-defence? What if another country comes to its assistance at its request and when does such assistance

begin to look like intervention? Such questions agitated the minds of members at Belgrade.

There is a healthy non-aligned convention that bilateral disputes and differences should not be aired at our multilateral meets, that members should concentrate on defining action and implementing agreed programmes in the vast areas that unite us. India for example, has never attempted to bring before the non-aligned forum its own problems with other countries, even when the situation had been grave.

Admittedly there were some departures from this convention at Belgrade. There was little point in trying to push differences under the carpet, once they had been articulated. In the end, I think, there was better understanding of the strength of feelings expressed at the conference.

PROMOTION OF HARMONY

I also believe that member nations would now give serious thought to the task of evolving, and following, a code of conduct that would obviate the rise of conflict and promote harmony. There seemed to be general recognition of the imperative need to respect historically established frontiers, the need to abjure the use of force to settle disputes, including border disputes, and the necessity to adopt a non-military and conciliatory approach to the resolution of problems.

The Belgrade Conference not only reaffirmed the compelling validity of these principles, but brought into sharp focus the dangers inherent in their violations. It would not be easy for those who violate these percepts in future, to escape the moral indignation, censure and disapprobation of the entire non-aligned movement.

At the same time, we must continue our efforts to help those non-aligned nations preserve their non-alignment that were compelled to seek external military assistance to defend themselves against aggression. for this, it is essential to build a climate in

which aggression would be automatically condemned and the aggressor exposed before the bar of world public opinion.

In short, the Belgrade Conference has brought to life both the weakness and the strength of the non-aligned movement. The strength has come to light in the shape that the conference has once again expressed its faith in those basic principles which had led to the movement's creation and sustained it since its birth. The weakness was revealed in the shape that as yet all the non-aligned nations have not understood the virtue of not raising bilateral issues at such conferences. if bilateral issues are raised, disputes increase, unity is hurt and implementation of agreed programmes suffers.

The Belgrade Conference passed the difficult test and crossed the abyss in a single step. It realised to quote a famous statesman, that "you cannot take two steps across an abyss." it should be noted that not a single contentious issue was sought to be patched up at Belgrade or remitted, to the Summit for solution. We took the few stray bulls by their horns and succeeded in harnessing them to the common task of consolidating unity through a commitment to mutual cooperation. There is now sober realisation that our problems, whether political or economic, are more likely to be resolved, and with less pain, through collective self-reliance and by instilling a spirit of understanding and mutual accommodation. The movement looks forward to the Summit meeting in Havana with renewed hope and confidence.

The international situation has undergone a significant, and somewhat sad, transformation in recent months. Some of the changes have been so sharp that there is a serious danger of redundancy of perceptions acquired some time ago.

DETENTE

The taste of detente appears to have turned sour. East-West relations are appearing to come under severe strains. Arms limitation talks between the two super-powers as well as in Central Europe are dragging. The Indian Ocean dialogue has been suspended and there is little hope of an early end

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to the frantic race for the development and manufacture of increasingly terrible weapons of mass destruction.

Polemical exchange between the two contending powers and ideological blocs has become strident and unrestrained. Healthy competition, promised by detente, is threatening to degenerate into open rivalry. All this adds to the tensions and enhances the danger of new conflicts.

AFRICA

Recent events in Africa make us suspect whether we are witnessing a new scramble for that continent. One wonders if Africa, with its rich mineral and raw material resources, is not once again becoming the object of greed of the former colonial powers and others.

In southern Africa, the monster of apartheid and racist minority rule continues to roam wild, trampling under its feet basic human rights and dignity of whole societies. In trying to impose phoney settlements, it is using every trick of the trade to delay the transfer of power to the majority and independence to the people. We have witnessed the farce of the internal settlement in Rhodesia, where time is running out fast and there is danger of a terrible blood-bath. We are also witnessing the efforts of the Pretoria regime to frustrate a settlement in Namibia which would secure the latter's territorial integrity and make its independence viable-I have in mind the port city of Walvis Bay, which belongs to Namibia and must be recognised as an integral part of that country.

Our own non-aligned world has not exactly been free from tensions and conflicts. The flames of war in the Horn of Africa have not yet been totally extinguished. Tense situations exist in other parts of Africa, threatening to blow up because of persisting

fear and suspicion of each other. An unfortunate conflict erupts from time to time between Vietnam and Kampuchea in Indo-China which has only recently emerged from a long, consuming struggle against foreign domination and intervention.

It is time that all developing nations realised that such internecine wars should not be allowed to take away the major portion of their limited resources and energy. It not only saps their strength but also reduces their capacity to contribute to the promotion of peace, understanding and cooperation among nations.

I would not like to convey the impression that the situation is altogether depressing. The Organisation of African Unity has made at its recent summit in Khartoum, commendable efforts to resolve, or at least to defuse, tensions and differences in Africa. There is hope of understanding and relaxation between Zaire and Angola and one is entitled to expect that the OAU's efforts in the remaining areas of strife would also bear fruit.

It is not my intention, nor do I think it necessary, to recount the numerous shifts that have taken place in the international situation in the short period of a few months. I have brought to your attention only some of the more significant of these developments. The task of our foreign policy is to correctly understand the world environment and then to determine what is the margin of persuasion that can be brought to dwell upon each situation. We have tried to estimate such margins and then utilise them in order to reduce the differences, whether these related to bilateral conflicts between nations, or multilateral exercises like the North-South dialogue and Disarmament.. We have also attempted to explain to the great powers that however acute their differences, it would be good for the climate of the world if strong expressions of disapproval or dislike of each other were avoided in public. Tension has its own logic of infection in this small world: it gets easily and quickly transmitted from wherever it arises to other areas of human activity.

In short, it has been the purpose and effort of our foreign policy to stem the recent weakening of the institution of negotiation and to prevent its replacement by confrontation.

It is only through peaceful dialogue and negotiation that a country's or the world's problems can be tackled in a civilised manner and successfully.

DISARMAMENT

There is another area of international life where the picture is not altogether gloomy. From the moment our government assumed office we have been giving particular attention to disarmament, It was our ex-

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pectation that the United Nations General Assembly's Special Session on Disarmament, which met in New York in May-June this year, will make a breakthrough in the search for means to stop the arms race and from there move to disarmament, both nuclear and conventional. Though this expectation was only fractionally fulfilled, there is reason not to feel totally disheartened at the results of the session.

For the first time in the history of disarmament negotiations, the role of the United Nations as a forum for actual negotiation and not only deliberation, has been recognised. This is a major achievement in itself, not only because the great powers were resisting it. but also because the entire weight of world public opinion can now be brought to bear upon disarmament negotiations. Another major achievement of the session was the success in persuading both France and China to join the disarmament negotiating body in Geneva. This body, if I may remind you, has now lost its exclusive character where the two super-powers used to preside over its destiny as well as determine what it should discuss and what it should agree about. Structurally, the chairmanship of this committee will rotate among the members and each participant will be able to introduce proposals for discussion and consideration.

We welcomed these results and actively participated in the deliberations of the session to achieve them. From India's point of view it is also satisfying that the Assembly endorsed the principles of non-discrimination in relation to disarmament and related measures.

In the field of nuclear disarmament, there was no progress. But we are optimistic that a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty may soon be concluded between U.S.A., U.S.S.R. and U.K. If such a treaty is concluded soon, it should serve as an example to the other nuclear weapon powers who have not yet accepted the logic of the impermissibility of nuclear tests.

These achievements are not much, but they are the beginning of the assault on the evil of arms race. It would be the Government's endeavour to pursue this task sincerely and vigorously for, without disarmament, there can be no development.

I would like to say a few words about human rights. The non-aligned countries affirmed in Belgrade at India's initiative, their commitment to the furtherance of human rights, stressing the need for the world community to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to this question. We believe that it is not sufficient to guarantee civil and political rights; for healthy progress, the social and economic rights of the people must also be assured.

The absence of political rights breeds autocracy, whereas the denial of economic rights leads to exploitation. Both lead to impoverishment of the human personality and impede the creation of a just society. We are of the view that the two are not mutually exclusive and that it is not beyond our capability to ensure both political and economic rights to our peoples.

Having gone through the experience of a grim struggle for upholding civil liberties

at home, we cannot but wish that human rights and the dignity of the individual should be respected universally. However, it is to be remembered that human rights canflourish best in times of peace and that such rights become the first casualty in a conflict.

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Before I conclude, I would like to return for a few minutes to the theme of this seminar. There is the age-old cliche of foreign policy following closely and adjusting to the shifts in the international environment. There are numerous advocates of change in foreign policy, throwing overboard our fundamental principles in order to serve some narrow and short-term interest.

Such advocates are to be found not only in our country. In our time, we have seen the example of well known statesmen modifying their pet theories of geopolitical security and doctrine of power into a half-hearted realisation that ultimately it is the people's will that counts.

I have a suspicion that this type of approach is not very distant from opportunism, which may produce some short-term advantages, but may, at the same time, irretrievably damage the long-term interests of the nation.

Unlike these latter-day converts, we continue to derive inspiration and sustenance for

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our foreign policy from our national ethos and from the principles that guided our national life in the time of the struggle against foreign domination. The foundation as well as the strength of our foreign policy are derived from a deep faith in the traditional wisdom and experience of our people, which is reflected in the broad national consensus behind our foreign policy.

CONTINUITY IN FOREIGN POLICY

I have stated repeatedly that Government has followed the principle of continuity

in foreign policy where it was desirable and based on national consensus. Where the national perception was in favour of a readjustment, we have not hesitated to bring that about.

I may confess that to me there never was a question of whether there should be continuity in foreign policy. I am reminded of what a great modern thinker said and I quote: "there is nothing as practical as good theory". I never doubted the soundness of the theory. My problem was how to bring credibility, more abroad than at home, to the notions of continuity.

One of the first things, therefore, that we did was to proceed to rationalise and improve our relations with our neighbours. There is no need for me to dwell upon the success that we have achieved in this endeavour. There are not inconsiderable and we continue to believe in the correctness of this course.

If I may say so, when we assumed responsibility for this country's foreign policy, there was a certain lack of credibility on account of the problem of dealing with nationalisms and sensitivities nearer home. A great deal of our national effort used to be expended on these issues.

We set deliberately to rectify the situation by projecting an image of India which is democratic and non-repressive at home and non-chauvinist and non-disruptionist abroad. We demonstrated that India has no propensity to take its nationalism abroad, nor to accept borrowed judgements.

It is strange that we should be criticised for following this course in relation to our neighbours. Certain circles in our country are attacking Government's foreign policy and accusing us of having given away our national interests in search of friendship with our neighbours. I would like to re-affirm that we have concluded no agreement which may be against our national interests, against our sovereignty. It looks as if they do not like the significant improvement that has taken place in India's relations with its

neighbours on the basis of equality, noninterference and mutually advantageous cooperation.

We are also accused by these circles of having brought about a subtle change in foreign policy. If this means that we have abandoned highmindedness, arrogance and imperiousness, I plead guilty to the charge. If it means compromising the basic precepts and philosophy of foreign policy, it is so absurd that it needs no denial. If it means an uninhibited policy of friendship and cooperation with all, then I accept the compliment.

For the first time in a long while, therefore, our foreign policy has produced an environment optimally conducive to national economic development.

For the first time since independence, India has no reason to be distracted by external threats or disruption, from the urgent task of national socioeconomic reconstruction.

The strength of our foreign policy lies in this credibility as much as in our growing capacity to comprehend and command technology. The world has seen that while constructing blast-furnaces and atomic power stations at home, we have not neglected our democratic institutions. We have also demostrated that our philosophy of socioeconomic development is not inconsistent with democracy. The thrust of our foreign policy is result-oriented and not confined to posturing. India is consequently happily placed today to adjust to changes in the international environment without abandoning its principles or sacrificing its national interests.

Thank you.

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INDIA USA YUGOSLAVIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PERU CUBA RUSSIA SOUTH AFRICA NAMIBIA VIETNAM CHINA SUDAN ANGOLA ZAIRE FRANCE SWITZERLAND UNITED KINGDOM TUNISIA

Date: Aug 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Shri Kundu's Statement at World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

The following is the text of the statement by the Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs, Shri Samarendra Kundu, who led the Indian Delegation to the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, in Geneva on August 15, 1978:

Mr. President, it is with great satisfaction that I extend to you the warmest felicitations on behalf of my Government and myself on your election to the high office of the President of this important conference. It is entirely appropriate that the Presidency of this conference, dedicated to fight against racism and racial discrimination, should be occupied by an eminent son of one of the frontline states. Lesotho, along with other frontline states, has borne the brunt of the consequences of the aggressive policies pursued by the racist regime in Pretoria. India greatly admires the sacrifices which your country is called upon to make in the common struggle against racial tyranny.

I also offer my congratulations to the distinguished Vice-Presidents and the distinguished Rapporteur-General on their respective elections.

It is indeed a great privilege for me to address this Conference today. I would like to express my country's deep sense of satisfaction about the fact that a cross section of humanity in all its diversity of race, language, religion, colour and thinking is gathered here today to discuss and evaluate the effective-

ness of methods employed in combating racism, racial discrimination and apartheid at the international, regional and national levels.

My Government attaches great importance to this Conference, which takes place half-way through the Decade against Racism and Racial Discrimination proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations in November 1973. The evil of racism constitutes the most flagrant violation of basic human rights and must be eradicated expeditiously and totally. For this purpose, we have to take stock of the progress achieved so far, assess the efficacy of the Methods employed, identify the main obstacles and devise ways and means and concrete measures for the speedy achievement of the goals set out in the programme action for the Decade.

WORLD COMMONWEALTH

India attained her independence on this day 31 years ago. Free India has always worked for and will continue to work for the building up of a World Commonwealth, a world in which there is free cooperation among free peoples, and a world in which no class or group exploits another.

It is true that the world has seen substantial progress in this field during the past three decades. However, the deplorable fact is that racial discrimination in political social, economic and cultural spheres persists, either in law or in effect, in many parts of the world even though there is no justification for it either in theory or in practice. Racial discrimination harms both those who practise it as well as those who are its victims. It assumes many forms, ranging from open and systematic Governmental policies to subtle activities which may appear to result from the application of mere class distinctions. As this is the case, it is essential to take immediate, effective and decisive steps to eradicate racial discrimination, wherever it may exist and whatever form it may have assumed.

GUIDANCE OF MAHATMA GANDHI

Under the guidance of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Indian Nation, we in India came to abhor racial discrimination in any form. Mahatma Gandhi speaking on nationalism had declared and I quote:

"My idea of nationalism is that my country may become free, that if need be the whole of the country may die, so that the human race may live. There is no room for race hatred here. Let that be our nationalism".

Race is being used more openly and more often as a ground for prejudice as well as for discrimination mainly because today's society is increasingly multiracial. The persistence of racial discrimination in many parts of the world in respect of numerous civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and in

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many other areas of human relations is indeed a very sad and most harmful social phenomenon of our time. It is more so as this discrimination is not on account of anything that a particular people might have done or failed to do but because of the single factor over which they have no control, that is, the colour of their skin or the race to which they belong. Racial discrimination, race hatred and race conflict thrive on scientifically false ideas and are nourished on ignorance. Scientific studies have shown that the division of Homo Sapiens into races is a purely arbitrary one. The biological data obtained from extensive research in this field have confirmed that racist theories have no scientific foundations. Thus, the problem of race is basically a social and political one. Racial discrimination is an affront to human dignity as it is a complete negation of the principle of equality. The Constitution of India guarantees to all its citizens equality of status and opportunity by prohibiting discrimination on the ground of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.

One of the major causes of racial prejudice is colonialism and more so when it is accompanied by the existence of colour difference. Colonialism has played a nefarious role in the development of racial prejudice and discrimination. More than 70 nations whose people were under the colonial rule have joined the United Nations as sovereign States since the World Organisation was founded in 1945. The basic philosophy underlying the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is that "The subjection to peoples to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation constitutes a denial of fundamental human rights, and is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and is an impediment to the promotion of world peace and cooperation". Having ourselves struggled for many long years against the most powerful empire the world has ever seen, it is only natural that India has consistently and firmly supported the independence movements of oppressed peoples. This support is a logical extension of our sense of comradeship with all people struggling against oppression, colonialism, racism, imperialism and herenvolk ideologies.

UNIVERSAL OPPROBRIUM FOR APARTHEID

It is indeed unfortunate that though apartheid has received such universal opprobrium, the international community lids not succeeded in eradicating it. The world community is aware of the enormity, injustice and inhumanity of the policy of the apartheid, which has been conceived in order to deny the black Africans and coloured peoples equal political, educational, employment and land ownership rights.

The inhuman system of apartheid practised by the racist regime in South Africa is the worst form of racial discrimination which continues to thrive on the fruits of the enslaved labour of the black majority. The tyranny and oppression of the black people in South Africa continues unabated in open defiance of all the resolutions of the United Nations over the last three decades. The massacre of Sharpville has been outdone by the wave of repression unleashed by the regime in the wake of last year's uprising at Soweto and other townships where over a thousand persons (men, women and children) were shot dead by the Police. It was re-

ported that even the police estimates had put the figure of those shot dead or wounded at 1,439. The death of the outstanding young leader, Steven Biko, as a result of police torture while he was in detention, has poignantly drawn world attention to similar fate being undergone by scores of other black victims.

INDIA'S INITIATIVE

On India's initiative, the question of racial discrimination in South Africa was taken up by the very first session of the General Assembly which declared in a Resolution: "It is in the higher interests of humanity to put an end to racial persecution and discrimination". Since then, the United Nations has clearly established that racial policies are not matters within the domestic jurisdiction of member States. In 1963 and again in 1970, the Security Council adopted resolutions calling on member States not to supply arms and related equipment and technology to South Africa. In 1965, the General Assembly for the first time drew the attention of the Security Council to the fact that action under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter was essential in order to solve the problem of apartheid. In 1967, the General Assembly condemned apartheid as a "crime against humanity". In subsequent resolutions, the General Assembly recognised the right of the people of South Africa as a whole to self-determination and majority rule

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based on universal adult suffrage. it has recognised the legitimacy of the struggle of the people of South Africa against apartheid by all means at their disposal. The Assembly has also declared that the racist regime of South Africa is illegitimate and has no right to represent the people of South Africa.

SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Mr. President, I was present when the Security Council adopted Resolution 418 of 1977 imposing a mandatory arms embargo against South Africa. This was another significant development in the fight against racist oppression and the first time that the Security Council has taken action against

South Africa under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. I was happy that the Security Council took such a significant decision. At the same time, I was not greatly enthused at the reluctance of some members to agree to more decisive and comprehensive measures.

Despite these far-reaching resolutions and sanctions, the goal of eliminating this curse of mankind is nowhere insight. We all know that the restrictions imposed under apartheid affect almost all aspects of life in South Africa and severely circumscribe the fundamental human rights of all non-white South Africans. It is nothing short of slavery which the white minority constituting 17 per cent of the population of South Africa has ordained for the remaining 83 per cent of the country. In South Africa, law has long ceased to be a guarantor of liberty. It has served instead as a pliable instrument of repression. The progress of repressive legislation has been inexorable.

The white minority regime in Pretoria is able to carry on its policy of racial oppression principally because of the direct or indirect support it continues to receive from a few industrialised countries. The total value of foreign investment, which means investment from essentially developed countries, was estimated at 12.8 billion rands in 1974. The net inflow of long-term capital into South Africa during 1977 alone was estimated at 211 million rand.

PATH OF SANITY

Mr. President, it is my delegation's view that only firm and decisive measures under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter can force the Pretoria regime to see the path of sanity. The mandatory measures must include sanctions against the export of oil investment capital, arms and nuclear collaboration. Revocation of existing licenses for the manufacture of arms, spareparts, and re lated equipment in South Africa is an essential step if the existing arms embargo under Chapter VII is to be fully effective.

Mr. president, India's commitment to the

fight against apartheid in South Africa is especially deep and dates back to the last century when in 1893 Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, raised the banner of revolt against colonial domination and racial discrimination in South Africa. We have thus a sense of emotional involvement in the struggle of the oppressed people of Africa. India was also the first country to bring the question of racial discrimination before the Security Council in 1946 and later to request for its inscription on the agenda of the first session of the UN General Assembly. India was again the first country to break Off diplomatic, trade and all other relations with South Africa as early as in 1946 in Protest against that country's racial policies. Our respect for human dignity and our commitments to principles demanded no less. We have always advised the large number of people of Indian origin in South Africa to identify themselves totally with the aims and aspirations of black masses in their struggle and it has been increasingly evident in recent times that more and more such people have cooperated with black nationalists and have been imprisoned and tortured by the illegal racist Pretoria regime.

ILLEGAL REGIME IN ZIMBABWE

Mr. president, while the problem of racism in South Africa is most intractable, the struggle of the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia is not yet over. The illegal minority regime in Zimbabwe appears to be tottering on its last legs. A systematic campaign is being organised by the riding white clique to mislead world opinion about the true nature of the so-called "internal settlement".

India has no political, economic and cultural relations whatsoever with the illegal Smith regime of Southern Rhodesia. Following the unilateral declaration of independence by the Smith regime, India closed its Mission in Salisbury in 1965 and severed all trade and financial links. In addition, India has been actively assisting nationalist forces in

NAMIBIA

On the Namibian question, we have denounced its illegal occupation, in total defiance of justice and world opinion, by the racist Government of South Africa. The Pretoria regime, in flagrant violation of the trust reposed in it by the international community, shamelessly held Namibia as a hostage and ruthlessly suppressed the legitimate aspirations of its people. We have deplored the plunder of the natural resources of Namibia by South Africa and their collaboration and the resultant denial to the Namibian people of their rightful inheritance. We have also condemned the policy of aggression launched by the South African minority regime against the neighbouring front line States. Our Government has recognised SWAPO as the sole authentic liberation movement of the Namibian people and has extended moral, material and political support to this Organisation in their struggle against illegal white domination.

We hope that the understanding recently reached in Luanda and the follow-up action taken by the Security Council would lead to a satisfactory solution of the Namibian problem. The question of Walvis Bay, which is an integral part of Namibia, is an essential factor to any settlement and we note that the Security Council has unanimously adopted a resolution declaring that the territorial integrity and unity of Namibia must be assured through the re-integration of Walvis Bay within its territory and calling upon South Africa, pending the attainment of this objective, not to use Walvis Bay in any manner prejudicial to the independence of Namibia or the viability of its economy. A direct responsibility has devolved on the United Nations for the supervision of elections leading to majority rule. The situation calls for extreme vigilance on the part of the international community.

HUMAN RIGHTS

The world community is well aware of India's adhorrence and rejection of any form

of racism and her deep and sincere belief in the basic concepts and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We have emphasized that in a system of institutionalised racial oppression that constitutes apartheid, lie the seeds of racial conflagration with continental and international dimensions.

The process of decolonisation is continuing and it has lent a new dignity and a new meaning of life to millions who were under foreign dominations and have been victims of racial discrimination in their own lands. We knew that the way has not been easy. The last bastions of western colonialism have crumbled in the front-line states bordering Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa and progressive regimes have emerged there. Racist regimes have realised that their's is a lost cause.

COMMISSION ON MINORITIES

In my country, all the rights enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are enshrined in the Constitution which lays down that the State shall not discriminate against any citizes on grounds of religion, caste, sex or place of birth. The laws of the country also provide for special measures for the welfare and development of the weaker sections of society known as the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. The Government of India-has recently appointed a Commission to evaluate measures taken for the welfare of these sections and to recommend corrective action where necessary. Similarly, we have set-up a national Commission on Minorities to act as a watch-dog of minority rights. India has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination on 3 December 1968 and the Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid on 22 September 1977.

The last General Election in my country is clear vindication of our people's hatred of a authoritarian rule and their respect for human rights, and civil liberties. The people of India brought about a peaceful revolution

by rejecting the emergency during which the fundamental rights of the citizens guaranteed in the Constitution were taken away and the press was gagged. The Janata Government which was voted into power made it their first task to restore full civil liberties. The Government has also effected the necessary legislation to ensure that no future Govern-

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Mr. President if the principles of the United Nations Charter and of the commitments entered into when signing it are not to be made a mockery of, then it is vital that the universal concern for human rights and the dignity of the human person which this Conference symbolises is channelised towards the speedy attainment of all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to every individual of the world community.

The distinguished Secretary General of the United Nations, in his opening address yesterday, spoke eloquently of racial discrimination in other parts of the world. He referred to the manifestations of racism in societies considered to be advanced in economic terms. He particularly mentioned the plight of large number of migrant workers seeking to build new lives in other countries because of economic or political considerations and the serious challenge which this problem poses in the area of racial discrimination. I believe that the Secretary General's warning in this regard is timely appropriate.

I hope all the distinguished delegates would join me in solemnly reaffirming the necessity of speedily eliminating racial discrimination throughout the world in all its forms and manifestations and to secure understanding of, and respect for, the dignity of the human person. I would like to reiterate that the doctrine of superiority based on racial differentiation is scientifically false, morally condemnable and socially unjust and dangerous. There is no justification for racial discrimination either in theory or in

practice anywhere, and the existence of racial barriers is repugnant to the ideals of human society, a blot on civilisation, an invidious attack on equality among men and an affront to human dignity.

Mr. President, I wish the Conference all success.

Thanking you.

INDIA SWITZERLAND USA LESOTHO SOUTH AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC RUSSIA ZIMBABWE NAMIBIA ANGOLA

Date: Aug 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Conference on Cooperation in Trade for Asia and Pacific

Inaugurating the Ministerial Conference on Co-operation in Trade for Asia and the Pacific, the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, said in New Delhi on August 21, 1978:

On behalf of the Government and people of India and on my own behalf I cordially welcome you to this meeting of the Ministers for Trade of the ESCAP Region.

Eight years ago, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution adopting a new International Development Strategy. The Resolution as expressing the intentions and aspirations of the world as a whole, comprising the developed nations and the developing nations was a landmark in the progress of the world community. It called for a more equitable distribution of income and wealth, promotion of social justice and efficiency of production, a substantial increase in employment and improvement of facilities for education, health, nutrition and

housing, with the ultimate purpose of providing to all people opportunities to lead a better and fuller life. It made specific recommendations regarding the scale on which the developed countries should transfer resources to the developing countries regarding international commodity arguments and progressive elimination of barriers affecting imports from developing countries into developed countries, and the programmes which the developing countries themselves should formulate and implement. There could scarcely be any doubt that the mutuality if interest and obligations of developed countries towards developing countries arising out of past history and from present needs were fully reflected in this approach.

However the progress of deliberations over the past eight years have belied the hopes and damped the ardour with which that Resolution was welcomed by the developing countries. We have no doubt been taking some steps in the direction indicated by the Resolution. The ideas contained in the Resolution of 24th October, 1970 were spelt out further in the Declaration and the programme of action on the establishment of a New International Economic Order. There have been extensive discussions and some progress regarding transfer of resources, integrated programme for commodities, liberalisation of trade restrictions and some

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progress by the developing countries in their own development programmes. But the progress has certainly been neither adequate nor conmensurate with hopes, expectations and requirements.

ESCAP comprises countries in which the need of economic development is both urgent and great. Poverty, unemployment and backwardness along with inadequate communications are the ills from which they suffer. This lack of adequate progress casts a special responsibility on regional organisations like the ESCAP. Not only our geographical proximity but our traditional links and cultural ties should make it relatively easier for us to strengthen and diversify

commercial and economic relations among ourselves and to meet each other's requirements on the basis of comparative advantage and mutual benefit. The first priority in our programme should be to evolve how to help ourselves individually and collectively. Greater cooperation and trade and the building up of collective self-reliance within the ESCAP region is important from the point of view of achieving the objective of the new international economic order. Regional cooperation would lead to speedier development through fuller utilisation of the comparative advantages enjoyed by the different countries in different fields of production. And the rapid economic development so achieved by us will give us greater moral and material strength to persuade the developed countries to speed up action on several important matters in which progress has so far been woefully slow. In fact it would then be in their own self-interest to take such action. It is from this point of view that India attaches considerable importance to this meeting of the Ministers of Trade of the ESCAP region and took initiative in convening it.

Recently most of the developing countries have been perturbed by the protective measures adopted by the developed countries which have adversely affected exports of developing countries. These steps have not only hampered the development effort of the developing countries but they are also not in the interest of the developed countries. Increased opportunities for exports from the less advanced countries and higher levels of income generated thereby in those countries can create greater demand for the sophisticated products of the advanced countries. There would thus be better development. higher employment and better utilisation of resources throughout the world. It is gratifying that this has been recognised by the developed countries themselves in the declaration issued at the end of the meeting of the Heads of Governments of Canada, F.R.G., France, Italy, Japan, U.K., U.S.A. at Bonn last month. We trust the declaration will not remain an embodiment on pious paper but would be followed by appropriate action and the impediments in the path of exports from developing countries to developed countries would soon be removed.

I need hardly add that it is necessary for the developing countries also to pursue policies of non-inflationary growth and economy in expenditure. That alone will lend relative stability to foreign exchange rates and international trade flows and enable us to achieve rapid economic development. We must candidly and regretfully acknowledge that our own performance should have been much better than what it has actually been, in the field of economic growth as well as social justice. We owe to our peoples to quicken the pace of economic and social progress appreciably. I know that we could have done much more than we have done.

I am sure all of you present here appreciate the difficult nature of the tasks to be accomplished at this meeting. Some of the difficulties which have been encountered by the developing countries as a group in arriving at concrete measures for assistance from the developed countries of the world, are bound to be encountered when matters of liberalisation of intra-regional trade with the ESCAP group and trade concessions to be extended by some members to others are discussed. These difficulties are inherent in the situation. There are bound to be honest differences of opinion as to the extent to which one country can give a particular facility to another country without unduly affecting its own interest. But I trust these problems will be faced and solved on the basis of genuine sympathy for the relatively worse placed countries and considerations of enlightened self-interest tempered by a spirit of mutual understanding and fellow-feeling.

While expressing unhappiness about the slow progress towards the establishment of the new international economic order, I must stress that all our deliberations among

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developing countries and with developed countries should continue to be in a spirit of cooperation and not one of confrontation. Notwithstanding disagreement regarding short-term actions of different countries. there is no gainsaying the fact that arriving at a world consensus on a new international economic order in itself is a great achievement. It is essential to preserve this atmosphere of consensus and through cooperation and persuasion, usher urgently the new order based on principles of equity, improvement in the standard of living of the poorer sections and reduction in disparities of income and wealth as between nations as also within the nations, leading to enduring peace and human welfare in the world.

I wish your deliberations every success and have great pleasure in inaugurating this Conference.

INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CANADA FRANCE GERMANY ITALY JAPAN UNITED KINGDOM

Date: Aug 01, 1978

Volume No

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HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Minister of External Affair's Statement on His Visit to Japan and Korea

The Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, laid the following statement on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on August 22, 1978 an his recent visit to Japan and the Republic of Korea:

In my very first major statement in this House after assuming the office of Foreign Minister, I had placed special emphasis on recognising the vitality and importance of Japan - something which we had been somewhat slow in doing the past. Even as I was making that statement in this august House, word came from Tokyo that the then Foreign Minister of Japan, H.E. Mr. Hatoyama, intended to visit India in July 1977. When that visit took place, it was decided

that the institution of Annual Consultations between the two Foreign Offices should be upgraded to the level of Foreign Ministers. In pursuance of that decision, I was very happy to visit Tokyo at the kind invitation of the Foreign Minister of Japan, H.E. Mr. Sonoda between August 14 to 17 to inaugurate the first round of Ministerial-level consultations between Foreign Ministers of Japan and India.

This visit reflects the shared recognition of India and Japan that as major democratic States in Asia, both of them have a strong interest in the peace, economic growth and progress in Asia as a whole. The primary Purpose of these Annual Consultations is to try and consolidate our multi-faceted relations with Japan to the mutual advantage of our two countries. It is evident that viewed in the context of Asia as a whole, India needs to work for closer understanding and friendship with all the countries of East Asia. Japan too is interested in the reduction of the tensions prevailing in that region and the emergence of friendly relations between all countries in that area.

At the talks with my counterpart we exchanged views on international issues of mutual interest such as the situation in Asia, the Middle East and Southern Africa, Disarmament, peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the North-South problem and the Bonn Summit of industrialised nations and the nonaligned Movement as well as bilateral relations between India and Japan. As for the situation in Asia, we agreed on the need to reduce tensions and enhance stability to ensure the more rapid economic growth and development of the countries of the region. It was felt that Japan and India could cooperate in various fields towards this end.

My visit to Tokyo coincided with the conclusion of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Japan & China, with Foreign Minister Sonoda having returned to Tokyo only a day prior to my own arrival there, after having signed the Treaty in Peking on August 12, 1978. Mr. Sonoda gave me a background to the negotiations and the Treaty. We noted from his remarks that it records the pledge of the two countries to

establish friendly relations between Japan and China on the basis of the well-known principles of peaceful co-existence and the U.N. Charter. He also drew my attention to the specific Article in the Treaty laying down that the Treaty shall not affect the position of either contracting party regarding its relations with third countries. The Japanese side particularly explained to us that the controversial clause relating to hegemony should be read in this context. One may note the statement by Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda made on August 12

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that it is basic position of Japan not to allow hostile relations to- develop with, any country and to seek peaceful and friendly relations with all nations. This sentiment was also reiterated by Foreign Minister Sonoda in his conversation with me.

Hon'ble Members would recall that our own foreign policy is based on the principles of bilateral cooperation with all countries, irrespective of differing economic and social sytsems, adherence to the principles of peaceful co-existence and the firm belief that our cooperation with any country should not in any way, impede the development of our relations with any third country. I expressed the hope that the Treaty which is a bilateral matter between Japan and China would contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability and will not become the cause of any new tensions in the region. Further, our hope is that it is implemented in a manner which removes misgivings expressed in certain quarters.

The Japanese side showed full understanding of our policy of improving relations with our neighbours and expressed their appreciation for the contributions made by India towards the atmosphere of cooperative relations which now prevails in our sub-continent.

The Japanese side also noted the role played by India in the recent Belgrade Conference, which reaffirmed the broad direction which the Movement should take in the years ahead.

As Members are aware, Japan has made many significant contributions to the economic growth of India and is one of our major trading partners. Our discussions on bilateral matters, therefore, reviewed, with satisfaction, the various fields of our bilateral cooperation. We both agreed that we must further promote our relations in the economic field and encourage, where possible, more examples of joint ventures in third countries. We also agreed that we should expand exchanges in the cultural, trade, scientific and technical fields. Already, official-level talks at various appropriate levels are taking place towards this end and this process would naturally continue. It was agreed that the second round of Ministerial-level talks would take place in Delhi next year at dates to be mutually agreed upon and I invited Foreign Minister Sonoda to visit Delhi for this purpose. He accepted my Invitation withpleasure.

While in Tokyo, I was received by H.E. Mr. Fukuda, the Prime Minister of Japan, and the Minister of Finance, International Trade and Industry, Construction and External Economic Affairs. Prime Minister Fukuda characterised Indo-Japan relations as having achieved heart-to-heart accord and he is looking forward to a visit to India at a mutually convenient time. While in Japan, I also had the opportunity to meet a crosssection of academicians and intellectuals. businessmen and others, who expressed keen desire to intensify contacts with India in their respective fields with their counterparts in India. The Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Japan and the Indo-Japan Association, whose activities are directed by very prominent parliamentarians in Japan, also hosted receptions in my honour.

Between August 17 and 19, I visited the Republic of Korea at the invitation of the Foreign Minister, Mr. Tong Jin Park. As Members are aware, the Republic of Korea has, through its efforts, become a major Asian economic power with export earnings touching the US Dollars 10 billion mark. It ranks today as the world's seventeenth largest exporter and it moved to this position

from the eighty-eighth position it occupied roughly fifteen years ago. The Republic of Korea is also involved on an increasing scale, in undertaking construction projects in West Asia. There are encouraging prospects, both for enhancing our bilateral economic relations and for working jointly in third countries, in a manner which is beneficial to these countries as well as to India and the Republic of Korea. I was gratified to note that the Republic of Korea appreciates India's contributions to international peace and cooperation, particularly in the context of the nonaligned movement and in our sub-continent. Our views on the peaceful reunification of Korea, through direct bilateral discussions without any outside interference, have been fully understood and appreciated by the Republic of Korea as well as by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Our position on this question has been viewed by both parties as helpful towards the eventual goal of peaceful reunification which is the wish of all the Korean peoples.

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The Republic of Korea has a great desire to intensify the cultural links with India. As an example of this, I saw that there is a very active Hindi Language Department in the Foreign Languages University near Seoul, where nearly 140 Korean students are busy learning. Hindi through modern audiovisual methods.

While in Seoul, I was received by the President, Mr. Park Chung Hee, Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, H.E. Mr. Choi Kyu Hah and the Deputy Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. Duck Woo Nam and I had a round of talks with my counterpart, H.E. Mr. Tong Jin Park, the Foreign Minister.

In conclusion, I was impressed by the friendship, warmth and the esteem in which India is held in both these countries. The possibility of cooperation in a wide variety of fields exists, and I hope that we can play our part in this process.

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Joint Press Release on Foreign Minister's Visit to Japan

The following is the text of a joint press release issued at the conclusion of the first Consultative Meeting of the Indian and Japanese Foreign Ministers in Tokyo on August 16, 1978:

The first Consultative Meeting of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Minister of External Affairs of India was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo from August 14 to 16, 1978. In accordance with the agreement reached between the two sides to upgrade the meeting to Ministerial level, Foreign Minister, Mr. S. Sonoda, led the Japanese team and External Affairs Minister, Shri A. B. Vajpayee, led the Indian team.

The Ministers had two rounds of talks, preceded by one at official's level. The Japanese team included Mr. M. Kanazawa, Ambassador of Japan to India, Mr. M. Takashima and Mr. H. Miyazaki, Deputy Ministers. for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Y. Nakae, Director-General of Asian Affairs Bureau. The Indian team included Shri Avtar Singh, Ambassador of India to Japan, Shri M. A. Vellodi, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Shri E: Gonsalves, Additional Secretary and Shri C. V. Ranganathan, Joint Secretary.

Shri A. B. Vajpayee called on Prime Minister Mr. T. Fukuda, Minister of Finance, Mr. T. Murayama, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Mr. T. Komoto, Minister of Construction, Mr. Y. Sakurauchi and Minister for External Economic Affairs, Mr.

N. Ushiba.

International issues of mutual interest such as the situation in India, the Middle East and Southern Africa, disarmament, peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the north-south problem, the Bonn Summit of Industrialised Nations and the Non-alignment movement as well as bilateral relations between the two countries were covered during the discussions. They agreed on the need to reduce tensions and enhance stability in Asia to ensure the more rapid economic growth and development of the countries of the region. It was felt that Japan and India could cooperate in various fields towards this end.

Both sides agreed to promote bilateral relations in economic, cultural, scientific and technical fields. To this end the Ministers agreed that dialogues at various appropriate levels between the two countries would be valuable. Mr. S. Sonoda specifically thanked Shri A. B. Vajpayee for his help in respect of the Imphal Memorial Mission sent in January, 1978.

It was agreed that the Second Consultative Meeting should be held in New Delhi on a date to be mutually agreed upon.

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JAPAN USA INDIA UNITED KINGDOM GERMANY

Date: Aug 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

NON-ALIGNMENT

Shri Vajpayee's Statement in Lok Sabha on Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-aligned Countries

The Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, made the following statement in the Lok Sabha on August 3, 1978 regarding the recent Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-aligned countries held in Belgrade:

As Hon'ble Members are aware, the Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-aligned Countries was held in Belgrade from July 25-29, 1978. Though the 25-Member Coordinating Bureau of the Non-aligned countries had met twice at Foreign Ministers' level first in New Delhi in April 1977 and in Havana in May 1978, this was the first Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of all the Non-aligned countries since the Fifth Summit Conference held in Colombo in 1976. An important highlight of the Conference was the inaugural address delivered by His Excellency Joseph Broz Tito, the President of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Eighty-six member countries of the Movement, 10 countries and 12 organisations with observer status as well as 9 countries with guest status attended the Conference. Djibouti was admitted as a new member and Pakistan and San Marino as guests. Welcoming Pakistan as a guest, we expressed the hope that it will go on to detach itself from the Military alliance system. In my statement at the Conference, I also stated in general that while welcoming nations who seek association with the Movement, we expected them to move on rapidly to repudiate totally their dependence on military blocs and multilateral military alliances.

India was unanimously elected as a Chairman of the Political Committee. India also presided over the Drafting Committee set up by the Political Committee to finalise the Political Declaration. I also utilised the opportunity for talks on bilateral as well as international questions with many Foreign Ministers. On the eve of the Conference, India organised a special cultural performance of Indian artists which was widely appreciated.

The Conference adopted unanimously a Declaration at the end of its deliberations

consisting of a political and an economic section and an Action Programme for Economic Cooperation. The general debate in the Plenary provided the forum for a review of the international political and economic situation, and the role which the Non-aligned movement has played and should continue to play in strengthening peace and promoting cooperation on the basis of justice and equality. The common theme in the general debate was the need to preserve the unity and solidarity of the Movement and to reaffirm the fundamental principles of nonalignment which were proclaimed at the First Summit Conference of Non-aligned Countries held in Belgrade in 1961. Our stress that no attempt, either from inside or outside, can weaken or deflect the Movement if we remain genuinely non-aligned found wide support.

UNITY AND COHESION

The Conference was held in the midst of a great deal of speculation regarding the ability of the Movement to maintain its unity and cohesion in view of the emergence of sharp differences and even conflicts between some of the Non-aligned Countries and of foreign military presence in some of these countries having potentiality of involving them in the vortex of cold war politics.

The Conference faced these problems squarely and addressed a special appeal to the Non-aligned countries involved in mutual disputes to make every effort themselves to reach peaceful settlements primarily by bilateral means. In addition, it recognised that Non-aligned Countries could render assistance to the parties concerned by bilateral means and through various forms of good offices for reconciling and resolving disputes peacefully. The possibility of establishing informal ad hoc groups for providing good Offices to parties to the disputes, should they so desire, was also examined and recommended to the parties directly concerned.

The Summit Conference of the Organisation of African Unity held in Khartoum

Just before the Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-aligned Countries greatly facilitated the task of the latter Conference and constituted an important contribution towards its success. The Conference admired the courageous stand of the African States in Khartoum in their decision to be exclusively responsible for Africa's defence and security by considering the possibility of establishing an inter-African force within the framework of the OAU. It also noted that the OAU summit had totally rejected all attempts aimed at involving Africa in the cold war politics and its condemnation of any foreign interference in the internal affairs of African States.

INTERNATIONAL FRONTIERS

The Conference recommended that in order to avoid the emergence of such conflicts, the relations between the Non-aligned countries must be guided by the basic principles of Non-alignment, the Charter of the United Nations, strict mutual respect for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of each Non-aligned State and the inviolability of legally established international frontiers. It was also recognised that the interest of unity and cohesion of the Movement can be best served if narrow national, regional and ideological issues are kept outside the forum of the Movement as far as possible and Non-aligned Countries devoted their attention and energies principally to what unites them in the task of restructuring the world economic and political order and promoting mutual cooperation based on collective self-reliance.

Of particular significance was the concern expressed by the Conference at the setback which the process of detente has suffered recently and at the recent disconcerting tendencies towards a revival of certain cold war manifestations. The Conference called upon the world community to redouble its efforts to avert the aggravation of tensions and for a deepening and broadening of the process of detente in order to encompass all the spheres of international relations in all regions.

The political part of the Declaration reflects the views of the Non-ailgned Countries on the major international issues as well as issues facing the Non-aligned Movement itself. The Declaration and the Programme of Action together constituted a comprehensive platform and a concrete programme of joint action by Non-aligned Countries international affairs. The Declaration contains the united stand of Non-aligned Countries on such major international issues as Southern Africa, West Asia and the Palestine Questions, Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, Disarmament, etc.

The House is aware of the position of Non-aligned Countries on these issues and that, by and large, they coincide with those of the Government of India, which I have had the honour to state on the Floor of the House a number of times in the past. I would, however, highlight the decisions taken at the Conference on some of the major issues.

WEST ASIA

Reiterating the known stand on the West Asia and the Palestinian questions the Conference called for work during the forthcoming Thirty-third Session of the U.N. General Assembly to convene a Special Session to be devoted exclusively to the consideration of the Palestinian question.

In regard to the situation in Southern Africa, the Conference endorsed the recommendation of the Ministerial meeting of the Coordinating Bureau held in New Delhi in April, 1977, to send a Non-aligned solidarity Mission to the front line States and the Liberation movements of Southern Africa.

The Foreign Ministers also endorsed the decision of the Ministerial Bureau meeting in Havana held in May 1978 to convene a Special Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau in Maputo (Mozambique) to review the situation in Southern Africa.

In regard to Namibia, the Conference, while welcoming the decision of the Security Council at its recent meeting, observed that while taking practical measures to bring about the independence of Namibia, it was necessary to exercise absolute vigilance in the new phase of efforts for bringing genuine independence to the people of Namibia.

On Zimbabwe, the Foreign Ministers rejected and totally condemned the so-called "internal settlement" in Southern Rhodesia

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and characterised it as a sham attempt to consolidate the racist minority regime in Zimbabwe.

DISARMAMENT

On disarmament, the conference expressed regret at the negative attitude of some nuclear-weapons States on two major aspects of the problem on which India, together with other non-aligned countries, had taken initiative at the Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly devoted to Disarmament. These were: adoption of measures necessary to prohibit the use of nuclear weapons, and a moratorium on their testing pending conclusion of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

The Declaration contains a new section reaffirming the commitment of the non-aligned countries to the furtherance of human rights and stressing the need for the world community to adopt an integral and comprehensive approach to human rights which would include not only civil and political rights but also social and economic. The Conference stressed that human rights and the fundamental freedoms of the individual and of the people are inalienable. The emphasis in this section, on the rights of the individual and on ensuring the full dignity of the human person as one of the principal objectives of human rights, was incorporated at the initiative of India.

ECONOMIC SECTION

The economic section of the Declaration reviews the recent trends in the world economy and the position and prospects of the developing countries in it, sets out the positions and recommendations of the nonaligned countries on the major issues in international economic cooperation and development, enunciates the role of the non-aligned countries in this field and reviews the implementation of the Programme of Action for Economic Cooperation among the nonaligned countries and other developing countries. The general conclusion of the Foreign Ministers on the implementation of the Action Programme is that while economic cooperation among the non-aligned countries has grown steadily during the recent years. the available opportunities for such cooperation have by no means been yet utilised. Among the recent major developments covered in the Action Programme, mention has been made of the adoption of the statute for establishing a Council of Associations of Developing Countries' Producers-Exporters of Raw Materials, the formation of Trade Information Service in Georgetown, and the acceptance of the offer of India to open a Centre for Science and Technology for Nonaligned and Developing Countries in India.

As regards the role of non-aligned countries in the field of international development cooperation, the Conference recommended that the movement should continue to play a central and catalytic role in the Group of 77. It was recalled in this connection that it was mainly at the initiative of non-aligned countries that a number of issues such as the establishment of a New International Economic Order, have been made the principal concern of the international community as a whole.

The brief review and assessment of the Conference which I have just given, will indicate that the Conference has eminently served the purpose for which it was called. At this Conference, the non-aligned movement has once again exercised its undoubtedly great influence on the side of world peace and stability. The Conference is yet another milestone in the long journey undertaken by the non-aligned countries to reorder the world economic and political relations, to establish a New International Economic Order and to achieve collective self-reliance as an important means towards this end. The prophets of gloom who predicted that the Con-

ference would end in disorder and bitter controversy, were once again proved wrong, The non-aligned countries at this Conference did not make any effort to avoid the problems besetting them, but went ahead and faced them squarely and sincerely and assiduously tried to find means of solving them and made appropriate recommendations to this end. They reaffirmed the need for unceasing vigilance to preserve intact the essential character of the movement and for maintaining its unswering fidelity to its basic principles and policies. They also attached paramount importance to the exercise by the non-aligned countries of the independence of action and judgement as one of the fundamental principles of the movement.

The Conference proved that no single country or group can deflect the movement in a narrow sectarian direction, so long as

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the members adhered scrupulously to the fundamental principles of the movement. Though the public platform provided by the Conference was used more than before, for airing bilateral differences, the Declaration representing the final outcome of the Conference amply reflects the essential unity of purpose of the non-aligned movement in the midst of its rich diversity of socioeconomic systems, political philosophies and cultural ethos of the individual member countries and sets out the key role which the movement has to play in meeting the challenges and the problems of this growing interdependent world.

Before concluding, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for the meticulous preparations and excellent arrangements made for the Conference by the Government of Yugoslavia, which contributed a great deal to its success.

USA YUGOSLAVIA INDIA CUBA SRI LANKA DJIBOUTI PAKISTAN SAN MARINO SUDAN MOZAMBIQUE NAMIBIA ZIMBABWE GUYANA

Date: Aug 01, 1978

Volume No

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Agreements for 60 Million Dollars Aid to India

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on August 26, 1978 on the signing of three agreements between India and U.S.A.:

India and U.S.A. signed here today three agreements for development assistance of \$60 million to India. The agreements were signed by Dr. Manmohan Singh, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance and His Excellency, Mr. Robert F. Goheen, Ambassador of the United States in India.

The first agreement will provide a loan of \$30 million for the construction of new medium irrigation projects and modernisation of existing medium irrigation projects in Gujarat over the next five years. This will be in addition to a \$85 million loan which has been provided by I.D.A., and is intended to cover additional projects so as to accelerate the rate of expansion of irrigated areas in that State. The expenditure on the construction of the projects will be incurred in rupees. This is the first time that a US AID dollar loan would be available for financing local costs.

Under the second agreement, the US will provide a loan of \$ 28 million primarily for financing the imports of anti-malarial insecticides (Malathion, DDT and Larvacide abate which are required for the Malaria Control Project. A modified plan of operations for controlling malaria has been adopted by the Government of India and the AID Project Loan will support this activity.

The third agreement will provide a

grant of \$ 2 million for the application of science & technology to rural development. This grant will support approved collaborative research and development activities falling under the priority areas identified by the Indo-U.S. Joint Commission and its subcommissions and focussed on rural development.

The loans are repayable in forty years (including a ten-year grace period) and carry interest at two per cent during the grace period and three per cent thereafter.

The signing of these agreements marks the resumption of development assistance to India by the U.S.A., which was suspended in 1971.

This development assistance supplements the commodity assistance that the US has been providing to the Government of India under PL. 480, for some years now. For the last two years, this has been for the import of quantities of soyabean oil.

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USA INDIA LATVIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Aug 01, 1978

Volume No

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VIETNAM

Protocol between 1ndia and Vietnam Signed for Exchange of Radio and TV Programmes

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on August 20, 1978 on the signing of a protocol on cooperation in the field of radio and television,:

India and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam signed a protocol on August 19, 1978

on Cooperation in the field of Radio and Television between the two Governments. Shri L. K. Advani, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, signed on behalf of Government of India and His Excellency Mr. Tran Lam, Chairman, State Committee for Radio and Television, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, on behalf of his Government.

Signing the agreement, Shri Advani said that it was one more mile stone in strengthening the relation between two countries. Describing the agreement as an important step in promoting better understanding, he expressed the hope that the peoples of the two countries would appreciate the cultural achievements of each other.

Speaking on behalf of his Government, Mr. Tran Lam described the protocol as a significant document. He was confident that this would create favourable condition to bring the peoples of the two countries closer and appreciate each other problems.

The agreement provides for regular exchange of Radio programmes highlighting development in the social, economic, scientific and cultural fields in the two countries.

The programmes will he exchanged in form of tapes, scripts, etc. and will comprise of music programmes, radio plays etc.

The agreement also provides for exchange of Television documentaries, newsreels and programmes on social, economic, culture, arts and sports matters and educational programmes for children, youth and adults. Both the countries will exchange full texts and scenarios of plays written for television. There will be exchange of technical, scientific and technical papers related to. Radio and Television.

The agreement also provides for mutually arranged visits of staff members for thepreparation of programmes and training facilities for the radio and TV personnel in both the countries.

Earlier in the evening, the delegation called on Shri Advani and met senior officials

of the Ministry, All India Radio and Doordarshan.

VIETNAM INDIA USA

Date: Aug 01, 1978

Volume No

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VIETNAM

Trade Protocol Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on August 30, 1978 on the signing of a trade protocol between India and Vietnam:

India and Vietnam signed in New Delhi on August 30, 1978, a trade protocol envisaging a two-way trade turnover of US \$ 10 million by the end of 1979.

The protocol was signed by Shri Mahesh Parsad, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and by Mr. Ngo Thanh Giang, Chief of International Trade Division of Vietnam on behalf of their respective countries.

The items of export from India identified in the protocol are cotton yarn, textile machinery spare parts, cycle inner tube valves, chemicals for industrial purposes and insecticides. The items identified for import from Vietnam include timber and edible oils.

As per the provisions of the Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement and the Trade Protocol, the trade will be conducted in a freely convertible currency to be mutually agreed upon. Specific contracts shall be concluded between the relevant trade organisations or firms of the two countries on the basis of mutually acceptable prices and

297 quality requirements and supplies will be effected against letters of credit.

After the unification of Vietnam, an Economic Delegation from that country visited India to explore the possibilities of cooperation with this country in the economic field. This was followed by a visit to Vietnam by a high level economic Delegation led by Shri S. Kundu, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs in February 1978. As a result of these exchanges several agreements including one on Economic and Trade Cooperation were signed during the visit of His Excellency Mr. Pham Van Dong, Prime Minister of Socialist Republic of Vietnam to India. Government of India has extended a credit of Rs. 400 millions to enable Vietnam to buy from India machinery and equipments including railway coaches and wagons. Recently when His Excellency Mr. Dang Viet Chau, Foreign Trade Minister of Vietnam, visited India in connection with ESCAP Ministerial Conference on Cooperation in Trade, he had discussions with the Commerce Minister, Shri Mohan Dharia regarding expansion of bilateral trade. This was followed by discussions between official level delegations of the two countries culminating in a trade protocol which was signed.

VIETNAM INDIA USA **Date**: Aug 01, 1978

Volume No

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WORLD BANK

IDA Credit for Haryana Project

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on August 17, 1978 on the signing of a 111-million dollars IDA

credit agreement:

A 111-million dollar credit agreement was signed by the Indian Ambassador, to U.S.A., Shri N. A. Palkhivala, on behalf of India and Mr. W. David Hopper, Vice-President of the World Bank, on behalf of the International Development Association (IDA), at a function held in Washington, D.C. on August 16 for an irrigation project in Haryana.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, Mr. David Hopper stated that IDA's conclusion of this credit agreement was reflective of the very high priority accorded by it to the agricultural sector.

Shri Palkhivala, who also spoke on the occasion, said that since the project involved primarily modernisation of existing canal systems, it would have a relatively short gestation period as compared to other projects and would, therefore, bring quicker benefits.

The irrigation project involves a total outlay of dollars 222 million and is designed to help Haryana to complete the modernisation of about 30 per cent of its surface irrigation system, mainly through canal lining. The project is also designed to develop supplemental ground water and accelerate development of irrigated agriculture.

It is estimated that the project will save enough water for bringing about 290,000 hectares of additional land under irrigation. It will also improve associated rural infrastructure including the provision of village drinking water and the construction or improvement of village access roads and rural markets.

The project when fully developed will increase annual foodgrain production by 337,000 tons, valued at 60 million dollars.

INDIA USA LATVIA

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Date: Sep 01, 1978

Volume No

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AFGHANISTAN

Speech by Minister of External Affairs at Banquet at Kabul

H.E. Mr. Hafizullah Amin, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, held a banquet oil September 18, 1978, in honour of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee at Kabul. Replying to the toast, Shri Vajpayee said:

Your Excellency and Gentlemen, it is a proud privilege for me to be here again in this friendly land. I regret that for reasons beyond my control, the visit had to be postponed. I would like to thank you for your cordial expressions of welcome to me and the friendly references to my country. Whenever we have visited your beautiful country we have been struck by the abundant warmth and generous hospitality that have been showered upon us. On this occasion also I would like to express my gratitude for the characteristically generous welcome 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 people of India to the friendly people of Afghanistan, to your eminent leader His Excellency Mr. Noor Mohammad Taraki, President of the Revolutionary Council and the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and to my distinguished host, His Excellency Mr. Hafizullah Amin. On this occasion, I would also like to recall the extremely useful conversations I had the privilege of having with Your Excellency at Belgrade in July this year.

ETHNIC AND CULTURAL TIES

The ethnic and cultural ties which bind

us are not new but go back into pre-history. Our peoples have shared a common cultural heritage and civilisation. They have together resisted colonial domination. Therefore, we have quite naturally always recognised each other as friends. Despite internal changes in the two countries, the friendship between our peoples has continued to grow. Let me assure you that we dearly cherish this long standing friendship with Afghanistan. The historical and cultural bonds between us have, been further cemented by many ties of mutual beneficial cooperation in diverse fields of development and social progress.

We would like to express our deep appreciation for the sentiments of friendship towards India which have been expressed on several occasions by His Excellency Mr. Noor Mohammad Taraki, President of the Revolutionary Council and Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, and your esteemed self. We reciprocate these in full measure.

Our countries have both been staunch adherents of the policy of non-alignment. In fact, we have been partners in this movement since its inception. In the realm of foreign policy, we stand for friendship with all the nations of the world on the basis of equality and constructive reciprocity based on genuine non-alignment. As members of the movement, we have eschewed military alliances or committed relationships which came in the way of exercising our independence of judgement. We do not belong to any camp. We have always endeavoured to give special attention to strengthening ties and promoting economic and technical cooperation among non-aligned and other developing countries. Non-alignment has indeed, played a unique role in promoting understanding among nations. Our two countries have a proud record of working together at various international forums to further the ideals of the movement and we look forward to similar positive cooperation in strengthening its role in the future as well.

TRUST AND CO-OPFRATION

It has been our endeavour to promote a

relationship of trust and cooperation among countries of the region, which, we believe, will reinforce the search for peace and stability in Asia and the world. We, therefore,

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welcome your desire to maintain friendly ties with all countries of the world and specially with countries in the region. Lasting peace in the region can rest only on the firm foundations of mutual trust and an awareness of the common aspirations and efforts of the people in various countries to improve their lot.

There are fortunately no problems between our countries. In fact, we have never had any problems between us. We have developed close rapport and understanding to the extent that on many international issues there has been an identity of approach and extensive cooperation in international fora. We have also stood by each other in times of trouble. We have recognised that each country must, in keeping with its national circumstances and traditions, determine its own social, economic and political system.

I had visited Kabul last September, soon after change of Government in New Delhi. I come here again this September, soon after change of Government in this friendly country. Such visits underline the fact that while individuals and Governments change, the friendship between our two peoples is abiding and, we are confident, will continue to flourish. When I went to see, Bamiyan last year, the two magnificent Buddhas there, which have stood for more than 1500 years, silent and peaceful, brought to my mind the great things that are achieved when the Afghans and Indians work together, collaborate with one another. Compared to what our ancestors were able to do together, our collaboration in projects like industrial estates, the Institute of Child Health, or the micro-hydel scheme may appear small. But, we are convinced that from these small beginnings, the two of us can move forward towards modernising and industrialisation of our two countries. We can cooperate together to ensure that benefits of science and technology are harnessed

in the service of our two peoples. You will agree that this can be done only in an atmosphere of peace and amity. We have both, therefore, got a vested interest in ensuring that nothing and nobody should be able to provoke or push our region wantonly towards tensions and strife. It is our duty to ensure also that no outside suspicions or complexes are permitted to be injected into our region.

EVOLUTION OF COUNTRY'S POLICY

Changes are internal affairs and the evolution of a country's policy will be firm, if it represents the aspirations and the win of the people. We refrain from interference as we would not permit such external influence in our affairs. We want to see Afghanistan prosper and progress. Therefore, let me assure you that India will always be ready to extend its hands of friendship in any manner you choose to the extent of its capacity, in the fulfilment of the enlightened aspirations of your nation. Our commitment to the cause of Indo-Afghan friendship in this spirit remains and shall remain unchanged.

Excellencies and Gentlemen, I would now request you to join me in a toast to the health of His Excellency Mr. Noor Mohammad Taraki, President of the Revolutionary Council and Prime Minister; to the health of my distinguished friend and host, Mr. Hafizullah Amin, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan; to the progress and prosperity of the brotherly people of Afghanistan; and to the further strengthening of Indo-Afghan friendship.

AFGHANISTAN USA INDIA YUGOSLAVIA

Date: Sep 01, 1978

Volume No

Joint Communique

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on September 20, 1978 on the Indo-Afghan joint communique:

At the invitation of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, Comrade Hafizullah Amin, the Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, paid an official and friendly visit to Afghanistan from September 18-20, 1978. The Minister of External Affairs was accorded a very warm welcome by the people and Government of Afghanistan reflecting the traditional ties of friendship between the two countries and the earnest desire of the two peoples and Governments to reinforce their friendship and to

300 consolidate and expand the areas of coopera-

tion between them in diverse fields.

The Minister of External Affairs was received by the President of the Revolutionary Council, and Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan Comrade Noor Mohammad Taraki.

The Minister of External Affairs held extensive discussions with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Comrade Hafizullah Amin, in an atmosphere of complete friendship and cordiality, in which problems of the region, as well as major international issues and bilateral relations were examined in detail. These discussions revealed identity of views on various important subjects. The two sides expressed their confidence that further strengthening of their bilateral relations would serve the mutual interests of the two countries. The two sides also decided to explore fresh areas for consolidating and enlarging their bilateral cooperation.

In these discussions the Minister of External Affairs of India was assisted by Shri J. S. Mehta, Foreign Secretary, Shri S. K. Singh, Ambassador of India in Kabul, Dr. I. P. Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, and Shri S. V. Purushottam, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan was assisted by Mr. Shah Mohammad Dost, Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs, Mr. Mohammad Mirza Samah. Acting Director General for Economic Affairs, Mr. Mohammad Gul Jahangiri, Director for First Political Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Abdul Mahmood Same], Director for Cultural Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Comrade Hafizullah Amin gave an account of the April Revolution brought about under the dynamic leadership of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan which began a new era in the destiny of the Afghan people.

The two sides reaffirmed their faith in the UN Charter, and their belief in the principles of co-existence. They reiterated that international disputes must be resolved through peaceful means without use of force or threat of the use of force, and with due regard to the principles of mutual respect, sovereignty, national independence, equality and non-interference.

The two sides expressed satisfaction over the continuing validity of non-alignment which had made a positive contribution to the common struggle for peace and security of nations. They recalled that these principles were reiterated in July 1978, at the Belgrade Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of non-aligned countries, thus consolidating the unity of non-aligned countries, in their struggle against colonialism in all its forms and manifestations, imperialism, apartheid and racial discrimination. The two sides agreed that mutually beneficial technical and economic cooperation amongst the non-aligned States should be promoted with vigour.

The two sides expressed their determination to persist in their effort to improve, bilateral relations with their neighbours; in order to promote peace, stability and cooperation in the region. They look forward to beneficial cooperation amongst the countries of the region for improving the lot of their peoples.

Both sides were of the view that all political differences among the countries of the region impeding the process of normalisation of relations and cooperation between them should be settled through peaceful negotiations and mutual understanding.

The two sides reviewed the situation in the Middle East which is causing concern to peace-loving peoples all over the world. They were of the view that the Palestinian issue was the crux of the Middle East problem. They agreed that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East can be achieved only through the withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied Arab territories and expressed their firm support for the struggle of the Palestinian people for the restoration of their legitimate and inalienable rights, including the right to establish their own national state.

The two sides once again re-affirmed their solidarity and pledged their full support for the oppressed peoples sufferings under colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in South Africa and Namibia and under the illegal minority regime in Zimbabwe. They further expressed support for

301 the legitimate struggle of the Namibian people under the leadership of SWAPO and that of the people of Zimbabwe under the leadership of the Patriotic Front.

The two sides reviewed the recent Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly on Disarmament, and expressed their concern at the escalation in the arms race, including nuclear arms and reiterated their belief that there was no alternative to general and complete disarmament under strict and effective

international control and the banning of the production of new weapons of mass destruction.

They called for an early implementation by all concerned of the UN Declaration on the establishment of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace from which great power rivalries and competition as well as military bases conceived in the context of such rivalries and competition should be eliminated.

The two sides reviewed the international economic situation specially as it affects the developing countries. They called upon the developed countries base their economic relations with developing countries on just and equitable basis with a view to bring about early establishment of a New International Economic Order.

The two sides urged the international community, particularly the non-aligned countries, to extend their full co-operation for the immediate implementation of the special measures adopted in favour of developing land-locked and least developed countries in various international forums.

They further urged that the international community should also adopt urgent measures to enable the developing land-locked, least developed and other most seriously affected developing countries, to overcome their present difficulties and to sustain the momentum of their development.

The two sides examined in detail the progress achieved in the commercial, economic and cultural cooperation between the two countries. They agreed that the area of bilateral cooperation between the two countries should be further broadened. The Minister of External Affairs of India expressed the readiness of the Government of India to extend the assistance and cooperation of India for the 5-Year Development Plan of Afghanistan which is currently under preparation. In this regard, the two sides stressed the importance of the meetings held by the Indo-Afghan Joint Economic Commission.

The two sides agreed to continue close contacts at various levels in order to exchange views for strengthening further their close relationship and for expanding their cooperation.

The Minister of External Affairs of India expressed his sincere thanks to the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Afghanistan for the warm hospitality extended to him and Members of his Party by the Government and people of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

The Minister of External Affairs extended an invitation from the President and Prime Minister of India to the President of the Revolutionary Council and the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, Comrade Noor Mohammed Taraki, to visit India at a mutually convenient date. The invitation was accepted with pleasure. The Minister of External Affairs also extended an invitation to the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, Comrade Hafizullah Amin, to visit India at his early convenience. The invitation was accepted with pleasure and it was agreed that a date will be agreed upon in future.

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AFGHANISTAN INDIA USA YUGOSLAVIA MALI ISRAEL NAMIBIA SOUTH AFRICA ZIMBABWE

Date : Sep 01, 1978

JAPAN Rs. 2.17 Crores Grant Aid to India

The following is the text of a press

release issued in New Delhi on September 22, 1978 on the Rs. 2.17 crores Japanese grant aid to India:

Japan has extended grant aid of 500 million yen (Rs. 2.17 crores) to India for the current financial year.

Notes to this effect were exchanged in New Delhi on September 22, 1978 between His Excellency Mr. Masao Kanazawa, Ambassador of Japan to India and Shri R. N. Malhotra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of their respective Governments.

This amount is a part of 1,800 million yen grant aid scheduled to be extended by the Government of Japan to the Government of India in the current fiscal year.

The grant aid of 500 million yen extended through exchange of notes today will be used for importing cement from Japan for use in the execution of projects for the construction of flood prevention and irrigation facilities in the watershed of the Godavari rivers and construction of houses in the cyclone-hit areas of Krishna and Guntur districts of Andhra Pradesh.

JAPAN INDIA USA LATVIA

Date: Sep 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

PAKISTAN

India Agrees to Supply over 5,000 Tonnes of Wheat Seed to Pakistan

India has agreed to supply to Pakistan 5200 tonnes of wheat seed worth over Rs. 1.88 crores. The following is the text of the Agreed Communique:

At the invitation of Shri Surjit Singh Barnala, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, Government of India, His Excellency Khawaja Mohammad Safdar, Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture, Government of Pakistan, paid a visit to New Delhi from September 2 to 4, 1978.

The main purpose of the Pakistan Minister's visit was to purchase wheat seed.

The Ministers also exchanged views on the progress and development of Agriculture in the two countries. They expressed satisfaction over the existing cooperation between their respective authorities in connection with locust control, and agreed upon taking all steps needed to combat it, in close mutual cooperation.

The Pakistan Minister paid a visit to the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, and expressed appreciation about the very good work being done by the Indian Agricultural Scientists.

The talks between the two Ministers were held in a cordial atmosphere, and were inspired by a desire to share each other's experience in agricultural development which is crucial to both the countries. Pursuant to this, India's Minister for Agriculture & Irrigation presented to the Pakistan Minister samples of some of the latest wheat strains developed by Indian scientists.

An agreement has been reached for the sale by India to Pakistan of wheat seed in the following quantities:

3,300 tonnes of Sonalika RR-21 1,200 tonnes of W.L.-711 700 tonnes of HD-2009

The last two varieties are to be delivered by 30th September" and the first variety by 10th October, 1978.

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The Government of India also agreed to make an effort to provide additional quantities of seed for the 1978 sowing season.

The Pakistan Minister was accompanied by Dr. A. G. Bhatty, Adviser for Agriculture, Government of Punjab, Mr. Mumtaz Ali, Agricultural Development Commissioner and Dr. Mohammad Tahir, Coordinator (Wheat), Government of Pakistan.

In the talks, the Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation was assisted by Shri G. V. K. Rao, Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. M. S. Swaminathan, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education, and Shrimati A. R. Malhotra, Chairman, National Seeds Corporation.

The Pakistan Minister was received by Shri Morarji Desai, Prime Minister of India. The Prime Minister assured the Pakistan Minister of all help that may be possible.

The Pakistan Minister expressed his warmest appreciation for the hospitality and cooperation extended to him by the Government of India and to the facilities afforded to their Agricultural scientists to visit various places where the seed was available.

PAKISTAN INDIA LATVIA USA

Date: Sep 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Cultural Exchange Programme

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on September 29, 1978 on the first Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Republic of Korea:

The first Cultural Exchange Programme between India and the Republic of Korea was signed in New Delhi on September 29, 1978. The two signatories to the agreement were Dr. (Mrs.) Kapila Vatsyayan, Joint Educational Adviser, Department of Culture in the Ministry of Education, Social Welfare and Culture, and Mr. Iel Hong, Director-General, Information and Cultural Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea.

The programme envisages cooperation between the universities and educational institutions of the two countries including offers of scholarships for students. A Chair of Indian studies will be set up in the Seoul University. A project for the preparation of Hindi-Korean dictionary will also be undertaken.

The leading museums and libraries in the two countries will exchange journals, books and art photographs. Besides holding art exhibitions and film festivals, dance and music troupes will visit each other's country. Both sides will also exchange radio programmes.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Vatsyayan and Mr. Hong expressed the hope that the cultural relations between India and Republic of Korea will be further strengthened.

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KOREA INDIA USA

Date : Sep 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Shri Vajpayee's Speech at Lunch in Moscow

The following is the text of the speech by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, at the lunch given in his honour by the U.S.S.R. Foreign Minister, Mr. A. Gromyko in Moscow on September 12, 1978:

Excellency, on behalf of the members of my delegation as much as on my own I thank Your Excellency for the warm reception and a cordial hospitality you have offered us. I have come to the Soviet Union in the full confidence that I am revisiting a friendly country and will be in the midst of old friends. After your visit to Delhi in April, 1977 and our subsequent meetings in Moscow and New York, I claim the privilege, Mr. Foreign Minister, of your personal friendship. It has been the tradition of Indo-Soviet relationship that leaders of the two countries and members of the Governments exchange views on a bilateral basis in a free, frank and cordial atmosphere. We have already had one very useful session this morning. It was no surprise that our discussions showed large similarity of views on important questions which concern ourselves and international problems of interest to both our countries.

As we look back upon this short period of a year-and-half since the Janata Government took office. I can say without reservation that Indo-Soviet relations have developed with a sense of established confidence demonstrating not just continuity but a healthy process of strengthening and deepening. Our leaders have met in Moscow last year and many Ministers have exchanged visits during this period. The Indo-Soviet Joint Commission has already had a very successful session and explored possibilities of economic cooperation in various sectors. A high-level working group is seized with the task of drawing up a long-term programme of economic cooperation till 1990.

The Soviet Union is our third largest trading partner. Commerce between our two countries has been diversifying over the years and our mutual cooperation covers a large number of fields not only in basic industries but also in increasingly sophisticated

branches of technology. We are not only exploring possibilities of cooperation on a bilateral basis, but doing so in third countries also.

EXHIBITIONS OF INDIAN GOODS

Last month the first exhibition of Indian goods and produce was held in the Soviet capital. More than 1 1/2 million Soviet citizens visited this exhibition and had a glimpse of modern India in the building of which the Soviet Union has been a very important partner from a time when other countries were reluctant to do so. There have been multifarious exchanges of experts and officials covering vast sectors of national economic and cultural activity. Not just our leaders, but our writers, artists, trade union leaders and the youth and our executives and experts, are fully familiar with the progress of the two countries and so can readily identify the great potential of further cooperation between us. Indeed we are already pioneering in cooperation in third countries and so giving substance to the objective of joining in the immense task of international cooperation for social and economic progress.

Mr. Minister, I speak with confidence and satisfaction that Indo-Soviet friendship stands firm in a world otherwise bedevilled by old tensions and new turmoil. The affirmation of the principles of our relationship - the commitment to peace and the respect for each other's social system - was formulated more than two decades ago and has never suffered doubts or disappointments. What has bound us together is above all the rejection of war as a means of promoting narrow national interest or accepting its inevitability. In today's technology of destruction and enmeshed inter-dependence amongst states there is no alternative - and we share this feeling with you - but the search for detente. We have welcomed detente in Europe and do not accept that there are plausible reasons to question its validity or the scope for its continuity and enlargement. Indeed if future generations in every country are to be assured the benefits of science and progress, the spirit of detente, and not of tensions and conflicts, it must spread to all parts of the world.

TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP

As the years have rolled by, it is well recognised that our treaty of friendship was to reinforce peace and was in no way directed against any other country. We can similarly today claim that the Indo-Soviet Joint Declaration signed in Moscow last year was a contribution to international stability and cooperation and in no way a impediment to the development of similar constructively motivated relations with other countries.

In the past decades our two countries have together carried out a struggle against imperialism, colonialism, racism and all forms of international economic and social injustice. Since we realise that the tasks before the world community are so important, we have laid great stress on both nuclear and conventional disarmament. India is opposed to the politics of confrontation, not merely because we are a developing nation and wish to employ all our resources for economic and social reconstruction, but also because we believe that all nations should sincerely contribute to the establishment of a new international economic order. There are several unforeseen dangers before the world and this is a unique opportunity for the world to turn away from old and new alliances and equations based on the concept of conflict which may distort the quest for peace and stability.

The happy climate and positive quality of bilateral relations is unfortunately lacking in other parts of the world. Long standing and complex problems like in West Asia remain unresolved and can threaten regional and international peace. India and the USSR are both against legitimisation of the fruits of conquest or the denial of the just rights to the Palestinian people. The international community and we would like to be associated with a comprehensive peaceful solution in West Asia. In Africa the fight against racialism and oppression of minority rule

requires fuller international support and a greater sense of urgency. Old established frontiers which are at times questioned must be respected and world opinion must help nations to protect themselves against external pressures and internal subversion.

INDO-CHINA

It is tragic that Indo-China, which fought for so long against imperialism and interference and suffered unprecedented devastation, should again be bedevilled by tensions and conflicts. As far as India is concerned, the principles of Panch Sheel, based on the rights and respect for nations for fulfilment of national aspirations, provide the answer to the resolution of these and other international problems.

Mr. Minister, as you know, ever since our independence our approach toward international relations has been of non-alignment And independence of judgement. It had been our intention that the policy can help widen the area of peace and limit the consequences of tension which may hamper international cooperation. We are gratified that the non-aligned movement has gone from strength to strength. It provides the basis for respect for individual national personalities and a forum for cooperation for the resolution of international problems. An effective role for non-alignment, we believe, demands a commitment to unity behind the established common principles and higher purpose of the movement. Non-alignment must continue to oppose multilateral militarism and the temptation to use it for settling purely bilateral or sectarian problems. We have a vast task before the movement, especially to tackle the serious economic problems which afflict most member nations. It will no doubt require perseverence, but it will also require restraint and certainly not any weakening in its united approach.

Mr. Minister, consistent with international principles of equality, non-interference and mutual respect India has worked to resolve problems and promote a climate of confidence and goodwill with our neighbours in South Asia where our own vital interests and security are involved. I believe all the countries in our region welcome this trend which promises good neighbourly cooperation not only bilaterally but hopefully in the area as a whole. We are gratified that the world community has generally applauded the more relaxed relationship in South Asia. We hope that this endeavour, uninfluenced by tensions elsewhere, will over-

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come old suspicions and irritations, and receive encouragement from all powers which have at heart the enlightened interest of these nations and peoples in and around this sub-continent.

Your Excellency, as I see it, the significance of our talks is all the greater because we have no fundamental differences or conflicting interests. This itself reflects the confident basis of our relationship. This visit is to reinforce our friendship and re-affirm that we continue to work together for a cooperative world order based on dignity and equality for all nations.

Friends, may I now request you to join me in drinking to the health of His Excellency Mr. L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU and Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of USSR, His Excellency Mr. A. N. Kosygin, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPSU and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, His Excellency Mr. A. A. Gromyko, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPSU and Minister of Foreign Affairs of USSR, and to the health of other distinguished Soviet friends at this table. I would also like to propose a toast to the friendly people of this great country and to lasting friendship and cooperation between India and USSR.

RUSSIA USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PERU CHINA

Date : Sep 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Joint Communique

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on September 18, 1978 on the Indo-USSR joint communique:

At the invitation of the Soviet Government, Mr. A. B. Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs of India, paid an official friendly visit to the USSR from September 11 to 18, 1978.

While in Moscow the Minister of External Affairs of India was received by the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR Mr. L. I. Brezhnev, by the Member of the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the CPSU, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR Mr. A. N. Kosygin.

The Minister of External Affairs of India paid tribute to the memory of and laid wreaths at the Mausoleum of V. I. Lenin and at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

In addition to Moscow, Mr. A. B. Vajpayee and his party visited Tbilisi, Tashkent and Samarkand where they had an opportunity to acquaint themselves with the life of the Soviet people and their achievements in various fields in the socioeconomic and cultural development.

Talks were held between Mr. A. A. Gromyko, Member of the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, and Mr. A. B. Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs of India, which were conducted in the traditional atmosphere of cordiality, friendship and

mutual understanding characteristic of the close relations between the Soviet Union and India.

The Ministers confirmed once again the value of contacts between the leadership of the two countries and agreed that such meetings should continue to be held periodically. Particular note was taken in that context of the fruitful results of the visit to India in November 1973 of Mr. L. I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and of the visit of the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Morarji Desai to the Soviet Union in October 1977.

The Foreign Ministers reviewed the friendly ties between India and the Soviet Union and exchanged views on major international problems.

They noted with satisfaction the consolidation and continuing growth of Indo-Soviet relations in the spirit of the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and cooperation as well as of the Joint Declaration of October 26, 1977 which reliably serve the interests of both countries as well as the cause of peace and stability in Asia and beyond. They reaffirmed that the strengthening of these friendly relations which derived

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their inspiration from the principles of peaceful co-existence was an essential feature of the foreign policies of their respective countries.

Indo-Soviet relations provide a good example of how relations between countries with different social systems can develop upholding the principles of mutual respect, sovereign equality and non-interference in internal affairs. The two sides reaffirmed their readiness to further deepen their cooperation in the interests of peace, international detente, disarmament and mutual understanding among the peoples.

In his capacity as Co-Chairman of the Intergovernmental Indo-Soviet Joint Com-

mission on Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation, Mr. A. B. Vajpayee had a meeting with Mr. I. V. Arkhipov, Soviet Co-Chairman of the Commission and Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. It was noted that the tempo of economic cooperation between India and the Soviet Union had been not only maintained but new avenues of cooperation have been fruitfully explored. The determination of both sides was reaffirmed to further develop mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation in diverse fields, such as trade, economy, science, culture, education, etc.

In accordance with the Declaration of October 26, 1977, the first meeting of the Working Group to draft a long-term programme of economic cooperation and trade had taken place. It was noted that progress was being made towards the early finalisation of a Programme embodying the understanding reached between the two sides covering such sectors as ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy, petroleum, coal, agriculture, irrigation, trade, etc. as well as cooperation in assisting the economic development of third countries.

A most successful Indian Exhibition had been held very recently in Moscow, enabling the citizens of the Soviet Union to see evidence of India's economic progress and diversified production capacity and the manifestation of the cultural life of India and her people.

Reviewing the international scene the two Ministers for Foreign Affairs expressed their satisfaction with the identity or proximity of views of India and the Soviet Union on major problems of the day. They expressed themselves in favour of a further intensification of efforts to deepen detente in international relations and to extend it to all parts of the globe.

The two sides agreed that disarmament was the most urgent task facing the international community. In this connection special attention was paid to the need for ending the production of nuclear weapons, reducing and ultimately destroying their

stockpiles and initiating negotiations on the subject. The determination of both Governments was reiterated to strive in every way to achieve the ultimate objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

India and the Soviet Union agreed that an early conclusion of appropriate agreements on the prohibition of nuclear weapon tests and banning chemical and radiological weapons and banning the development and manufacture of new types and systems of weapons of mass destruction including the neutron weapon would represent concrete steps towards disarmament and ending the, arms race. The two sides noted that movement towards general and complete disarmament is of major importance for the release of necessary resources for stepping up economic progress of the developing countries.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the results of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament noting that its agreed Final Agreement should provide a fresh impetus to the struggle of the peoples for real disarmament, for a lasting peace.

Both sides reaffirmed their resolve to continue their cooperation in the UN in order to realise the proposal for the conclusion of a world Treaty on the non-use of force in international relations.

The Soviet side highly appreciated India's role in international affairs as a peace-loving State and an active participant in the non-aligned movement.

Both sides reiterated their conviction that the non-aligned movement continues to be an important factor for international peace. They recognised that the non-aligned movement has a vital role in the struggle

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against imperialism and aggression, for the elimination of the vestiges of colonialism and racism, in the efforts to establish a New International Economic Order and to achieve Disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament. Both sides expressed themselves in favour of the preservation of the unity of the non-aligned movement on the basis of its fundamental principles.

The two sides reaffirmed their conviction that mutually beneficial cooperation among Asian States must be developed and extended in order to consolidate peace and stability in the region. They stressed that inter-state relations should rest on such principles as the right of each people to choose their own political system, renunciation of the use of force or threat of force, respect for sovereignty and inviolability of frontiers, non-interference in internal affairs and cooperation in economic and other fields on the basis of full equality and mutual benefit. Acceptance of these principles in interstate relations would contribute to the transformation of Asia into a continent of durable peace and to the strengthening of peace in the whole world.

The Soviet Union commends the desire and the practical steps of India and other states of South Asia aimed at consolidating peace and stability in the area. Both sides noted with satisfaction the positive movement towards the establishment of a climate of peace, cooperation and good neighbourhood in the region. The resolution of many problems in the relations between the countries of the region demonstrated that the countries can resolve their differences bilaterally without outside interference, on the basis of equality and sovereignty.

The two sides discussed the situation in South East Asia and in this connection expressed concern that Indo-China should again be subject to tensions which deflect the peoples of Indo-China from the urgent tasks of reconstruction and development. They were of the view that these tensions should be resolved by peaceful bilateral negotiations without any outside interference.

The Soviet side informed of the situation at the talks between the USSR and the USA on the Indian Ocean, India had welcomed the talks. Both sides regretted their suspension and expressed the hope that they would be soon resumed and would lead to results which would contribute to realising the objectives contained in the UN Declaration on the establishment of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

In surveying the developments in Africa, particularly in the region of the Horn, the, two sides called for strict respect for the principle of territorial integrity and inviolability of existing international boundaries in Africa. They agreed that bilateral problems between the States of Africa should be resolved peacefully without outside interference, on the basis of equality and sovereignty in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter, OAU Charter and its other decisions.

The two sides expressed their resolute support for the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe for their freedom and independence, pronounced themselves for the immediate transfer of power to representatives of the majority in Zimbabwe. They condemned the intrigues adopted by the racist clique in Salisbury as a futile attempt to stop the march of history. In the light of the organised breach of UN sanctions against the illegal racist minority regime in Rhodesia, they called for the strict enforcement of these sanctions by all members of the international community.

They reiterated their support for demands for the total withdrawal by The Republic of South Africa from the entire territory of Namibia, including Walvis Bay, and the speedy achievement of genuine independence for Namibia. They drew attention to the fact that the attempts of the racist South African regime to set up bases outside its territory constitutes a grave danger not only to Africa but to all areas of the world. They once again demanded the immediate termnation of the policy of apartheid and racism in the Republic of South Africa.

The two sides expressed their deep concern over the continuing serious threat to peace in West Asia and pronounced themselves once again in favour of a comprehensive and just settlement of the problem on the basis of the complete withdrawal of Israel from all the Arab territories she had occupied in 1967, the securing of the legitimate national rights of the Arab people of

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Palestine, including their right to establish their own state, as well as the ensuring of the right of all states in the area to independent existence and development.

The two sides reaffirmed their intention to continue their efforts aimed at achieving an agreement on a new Convention on the Law of the Sea which would be on the whole acceptable to all states. They expressed themselves in favour of ensuring further progress in achieving that objective at the current session of the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference.

Having noted the great importance of the United Nations in consolidating peace and international security, the two sides expressed their unanimous view concerning the need for the further strengthening of the international organization and enhancing its effectiveness on the basis of strict observance by all countries of the purposes and principles of its Charter.

Both sides are convinced that the fruitful and constructive talks held have made valuable contribution to the cause of strengthening mutual understanding, broadening the many-faceted cooperation and the further deepening of friendship between the USSR and India.

Mr. A. B. Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs of India extended once again the invitation of the President and the Prime Minister of India to the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR Mr. L. I. Brezhnev to pay a friendly visit to India. The invitation was accepted with gratitude.

On behalf of the Government of India

Mr. A. B. Vajpayee extended to the Member of. the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the CPSU', Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR Mr. A. A. Gromyko an invitation to pay an official visit to India which was accepted with gratitude. The time of the visit will be fixed later.

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INDIA USA RUSSIA GEORGIA UZBEKISTAN LATVIA PERU CHINA ZIMBABWE SOUTH AFRICA NAMIBIA ISRAEL

Date: Sep 01, 1978

October

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Date: Oct 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

JAPAN

Agreement Signed in Tokyo for Six Billion Yen Commodity Loan from Japan

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 8, 1978 on a six billion Yen credit from Japan to India:

India will get six billion Yen (Rs. 245.9 million) as commodity loan from Japan

during the current financial year. The agreement for this loan was signed by Mr. Kaneo Ishihara, President, Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund and Shri Avtar Singh, Ambassador of India to Japan in Tokyo.

Notes for this loan were exchanged between His Excellency Mr. Masao Kanazawa, Ambassador of Japan to India and Dr. Manmohan Singh, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India on behalf of their respective Governments in New Delhi on August 4, 1978.

The amount is payable over a period of 30 years including ten years grace period at an interest of three per cent per annum. The credit can be utilised for financing import of machinery, components, spares, steel, fertilisers and machinery and equipment for the Bombay High off-shore development programme.

The loan will be generally untied and wig be used to cover payments in respect of import of goods and services not only from Japan but also from other member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and developing countries.

JAPAN INDIA USA

Date: Oct 01, 1978

Volume No

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NETHERLANDS

Shri Vajpayee Hosts Dinner for Netherlands Foreign Minister

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi when the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, held a dinner in honour of H.E. Dr. Christoph Albert van der Klaauw, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, in New Delhi on October 12, 1978. Proposing the toast, Shri Vajpayee said:

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my pleasure and privilege to welcome H.E. Dr. van der Klaauw, Foreign Minister of the Netherlands and Madame van der Klaauw to India. In our meetings today, the community of interests that was manifest, is a sure indication of the promising prospects of enlarging further the areas of fruitful cooperation and mutual understanding between our two countries. Our discussions have left upon me a vivid impression of the depth of your learning and range of your experience in diplomacy, qualities that you carry with engaging candour and sincerity.

Excellency, we live in times when, more than ever before, the interdependence of nations needs to be not only recognised but also emphasised. The rapid strides made in the spheres of science and technology have overcome the barriers imposed by physical distances and differences of historical condition. Our catholicity of beliefs and liberal

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outlook, reinforced by the abiding concern for world peace, justice and stability has placed you in an important position, not only on the continent of Europe but also as a factor of consequence in forging understanding between the developed and the developing nations.

On our part, our approach to international relations is animated not only by the desire to extend the hand of friendship to countries in our own region, but to widen the area of peace and stability the world over. This flows from our lasting faith in the validity of the principles of nonalignment that ensure independence of judgment and action in tackling the complex problems of our age.

UNIVERSAL ADMIRATION

The qualities that have earned the Dutch people universal admiration and respect are

well-known but can bear reiteration. These virtues of enterprise, courage and hard work on the part of your people have naturally resulted in the pre-eminent position that your country enjoys in the comity of nations. What is even more laudable, however, is your enlightened involvement in the concerns and problems of developing countries. Excellency, I need hardly point out that Netherlands is among the first of the few countries that have exceeded the norm of contributing 1 per cent of the G.N.P. as official development assistance.

Excellency, we are sorry that your stay in our country is too brief for anything more than a sampling of the variety that is India. Underlying this variety is a common thread; an insatiable human aspiration for the freedom of the individual in harmony with society. On this bedrock rest our democratic traditions and our consistent endeavours to maximise the welfare of our people. The policies of our Government in the last eighteen months have been aimed at opening up new vistas of progress and opportunities for the masses of India.

Excellency and Madame Klaauw, may I say how happy we are that you came and hope that you would come again for a longer visit. On behalf of my Government and the people of India, I would like to propose a toast to the health of Her Majesty Queen Juliana of the Netherlands; to the health of His Excellency the Prime Minister of the Netherlands; to the health of His Excellency and Madame van der Klaauw; and to the longlasting friendship between India and the Netherlands.

INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC THE NETHERLANDS

Date: Oct 01, 1978

Volume No

NETHERLANDS

Reply by Netherlands Foreign Minister

Replying to the toast, H.E. Dr. van der Klaauw said:

Mr. Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, please permit me first of all to express my deepfelt sympathy with the sufferings of the population and the damage caused by the waves of floods which recently afflicted North and North East India.

I very much appreciate that notwithstanding these sad events there was no reason for you, Mr. Minister, to ask me to postpone my visit.

It is an unforgettable experience for me to visit your great country and to have the opportunity to meet its leaders. I have been looking forward to this visit and to the opportunity just mentioned and I can assure you that both have given me much satisfaction.

We have had lengthy discussions, Mr. Minister, during which we have exchanged our views on the political situation in the world and more in particular, we have discussed the problems in various regions where the situation gives reason for concern. My satisfaction which I have just expressed, is to a large extent due to the fact that in our discussions it appeared that we were thinking and speaking on the same wave length. There may have been differences in emphasis, but I dare say that in general we agreed in evaluating the state of affairs in the world; there were few controversial points and if they came up, they appeared to be of minor importance and on the whole of little influence on our evaluation.

This consensus of opinion has traditionally characterized the relations between our countries. The ambassador told me that

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in India, he has had to undertake many demarches, on instruction of his government. But they were usually intended to ask information or to convey the point of view of the Government of the Netherlands to the Government of India and he never had to lodge a protest. I sincerely hope, but at the same time I am confident, that these happy relations will be maintained in the future.

FIRM BELIEVERS IN DEMOCRACY

Mr. Minister, as firm believers in democracy. everybody in the Netherlands has welcomed the restoration of this form of Government in India, making it possible for the people to enjoy again their freedom, to which they attach so much importance. We have followed with great interest the progress made in this field and hope that it will continue.

We have also great sympathy for the policy of the Indian Government to improve and strengthen the relations with other countries and to achieve a better understanding between nations. It is common knowledge, Mr. Minister, that you have made great efforts to reach this objective. Since you have assumed office, you have travelled thousands of miles and you have visited dozens of countries to spread this message and to implement this policy. And now already you can proudly show substantial results. The relations with your neighbouring countries have improved considerably. In the movement of non-aligned countries, India has continued to play its moderating and constructive role. You have now ahead of you your visit to China within a few weeks. I permit myself to express the hope that in carrying out your mission you will be as successful as you have been in your missions to other countries. I can assure you, Mr. Minister, that I shall follow your discussions and your achievements with great interest.

As far as the relations between India and the Netherlands are concerned, they lie in the political, economic and cultural field. However. our closest connections are in the field of development cooperation. I shall not elaborate on this point, as our responsible

Minister will visit India in the first week of December and will discuss this subject at length with the competent Indian authorities. Nevertheless, in view of its importance in our mutual relations, I cannot resist the temptation to make a few remarks on this subject.

You may know. Mr. Minister, that Netherlands is one of the few countries which has attained the target set within the framework of the United Nations, to make 0.7% of its GNP available for development cooperation. You may also know that, as far as the amount of financial assistance is concerned, India is at the top of our list; in 1978 an amount of about \$ 100 million has been earmarked for this country. In doing so we sincerely hope that our relatively modest assistance may contribute to the development of India and to raising the standard of living of its people and in particular of the standard of living of the least privileged groups.

To conclude, Mr. Minister, on behalf of my wife, the Members of my staff who are accompanying me and in my own name, I wish to convey to the Indian Government and to yourself our feelings of gratitude for the invitation to visit India and for the warm and cordial reception and hospitality we have enjoyed here. As I said in the beginning of my speech, it has been for all of us an unforgetable experience.

I sincerely hope that we may have the opportunity to reciprocate this hospitality when, I hope in the very near future, you visit the Netherlands, where you will be most welcome.

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I propose a toast on the good relations between India and the Netherlands and on the health and happiness of the Minister of External Affairs, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

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USA INDIA THE NETHERLANDS CHINA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Oct 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

NON-ALIGNMENT

India Calls for Coordinated Approach by Developing Countries

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi of the statement made by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee at the Ministerial meeting of the non-aligned countries held in New York on October 2, 1978:

It is a great pleasure for me to have this opportunity of addressing this extraordinary meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the non-aligned countries. We are assembled here to have an over-view of the major political and economic issues coming up for discussion at the current session of the General Assembly and to give broad guidance to non-aligned countries in dealing with them.

Since we met in Belgrade about two months ago, there have been significant developments in relation to Namibia and West Asia. On the economic front, there has been no progress in the negotiations with developed countries on most of the key issues, and the North-South dialogue through the General Assembly Committee of the Whole has not got beyond the stage of interpretation of its mandate.

We had stated our positions on these and other issues at the Belgrade Conference, and we maintain them. What is important now, particularly at this session of the Assembly, is to co-ordinate our actions so as to present a united front and thus make effective contribution towards the solution of these problems. At the same time, in our quest for just solutions, we should be prepared to sink our differences and display flexibility in our tac-

tics. The greatest danger to our solidarity stems from rigidity in individual positions and assessments. Divisive tendencies in our movement will weaken our common struggle against colonialism, neocolonialism, racism, apartheid and other forms of external domination.

BELGRADE CONFERENCE

Distinguished Foreign Ministers and representatives assembled here would recall the Pessimistic prognostication concerning the future of our movement made in certain quarters on the eve of the Belgrade Conference. The outcome of the Conference belied those prophets of gloom and once again demonstrated what a powerful force our movement can be for the good of mankind and for ushering in an equitable and truly democratic world order in conditions of peace, security and justice.

The success of the Belgrade Conference was due to our decision to maintain steadfast adherence to the fundamental principles propounded by our founding fathers. We reasserted our determination to retain our in, dependence to judge every issue on its merits without being influenced by outside pressures or by narrow sectarian interests. We once again proclaimed the essential unity of purpose of the movement in the midst of the rich diversity of our social-economic systems, and distinctive national personalities. And, of course, as in the past, we emphatically repudiated multilateral militarism and division of the world into military blocs.

We also did not fight shy of frankly discussing some bilateral issues that have created differences within our group and this we did in order to see whether it was possible to resolve those differences. But we certainly did not allow them to disrupt our unity or otherwise come in the way of our onward march towards realising our common objectives. We also prescribed guidelines derived from the fundamental principles of the movement for defusing tensions arising out of our mutual differences.

But this should not give rise to a mood

of complacency, because the problems that are before us call for continued vigilance, especially in relation to conflict situations between countries belonging to the movement which tend to divide us and to import into our movement outside forces that could destroy our separate identity.

HAVANA SUMMIT

Therefore, as we look forward to the Havana Summit, we must make sincere and determined efforts to contain our bilateral

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Problems and prevent their being exploited to the detriment of our solidarity. Our recourse should be to the individual or collective good offices of non-aligned countries, particularly within the aegis of appropriate regional organisations.

We also have at our disposal the instrumentality of the United Nations, in which we have put so much at stake. We must therefore strengthen this world body and enhance its prestige and effectiveness.

We must also make resolute efforts to replace conflict by cooperation and harness our energies towards the attainment of prosperity for our peoples, who have been exploited too long by foreign interests.

The non-aligned forum, particularly after the Colombo Summit, provides an excellent framework for mutual cooperation. By pioneering new ideas, we have given considerable impetus to the efforts of the international community to establish a new international economic order. We have initiated several new schemes of mutual cooperation which have strengthened our collective self-reliance and our capacity for negotiations with developed countries.

As we are approaching another summit conference, it is useful to be introspective and examine whether we have not spread ourselves too thinly, whether we are not moving unprepared to new areas without consolidat-

ing our gains in the existing areas of cooperation, whether at least in some cases repeated declaration of intention is not becoming a substitute for concrete action. I have raised these questions in a spirit of self-criticism and out of our concern to infuse credibility and new vitality into our movement in all spheres of its activities.

In the political field, we should avail ourselves of all opportunities to exert our moral and political weight on the side of peace and justice. Repetitions and reaffirmations of positions and policies may be necessary sometimes but if they are over-done, they can be frustrating. High-sounding declarations frequently issued are no more than rhetorical exercises. The non-aligned movement has come of age and is mature and its meetings must be characterised by business-like statements that are of contemporary relevance rather than historical masterpieces. No one will take us seriously, unless we are ourselves serious, pragmatic, action-oriented as well as principled. The Co-ordinating Bureau meetings should primarily co-ordinate the views of all by making their attendance open-ended and by giving a collective impetus to coordinated action.

Our movement has to overcome a bewildering complexity of historical issues in the face of present day realities. While gaining from the strength of its growing size, it has to contend with the problem of harmonising the views of a large number of countries. And, above all, it has to live up to the demands of the ever expanding dimensions of its objectives - the formidable and historic task of changing the very quality of international relations and establishing a new equitable order. We will need all the flexibility and strength that we are capable of mustering for meeting these challenges.

INDIA USA YUGOSLAVIA NAMIBIA CUBA SRI LANKA

Date: Oct 01, 1978

Volume No

SEYCHELLES

Shri Kundu Hosts Lunch for Seychelles Foreign Minister

The Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs, Shri Samarendra Kundu, held a lunch in honour of the visiting Minister of Foreign Affairs and Tourism of the Government of the Republic of Seychelles, His Excellency Mr. Guy Sinon, on October 30, 1978. Proposing the toast, Shri Kundu said:

Your Excellency, Honourable Mr. Guy Sinon, Minister of Foreign Affairs and

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Tourism of the Government of the Republic of Seychelles, distinguished guests.

On behalf of the Government of India and the people of India, I have great pleasure in extending a warm welcome to the distinguished visitor from the Republic of Seychelles.

India and Seychelles share age-old ties of kinship and commerce which, since the independence of Seychelles in 1976 and particularly since June 1977 when the Government of President F.A. Rene took over the reins of power in Seychelles, have assumed greater depth and content.

India and Seychelles are both members of the United Nations, the Non-aligned group of nations and the Group of 77. India, like Seychelles, stands for peace and cooperation amongst nations as against aggression and injustice. We are committed to friendship and cooperation with our neighbours and to the philosophy of interdependence.

FAITH IN DEMOCRACY

India believes and, only in the recent

past. reaffirmed its faith in democracy. India during the past year and a half, has succeeded in a significant manner in its self-imposed task of strengthening the bonds of friendship wherever they exist and in creating new friendships where none existed before. We believe that by taking these new initiatives we have, in our own humble way at some sacrifice to ourselves, made our neighbourhood more conducive, than ever before, to peaceful cooperation for mutual benefit. Especially in our relations with our immediate neighbours, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Burma our efforts in this direction have been singularly successful. Our relations with Pakistan have undergone a welcome change with resumption of cultural, sporting and commercial links with our western neighbour. With the People's Republic of China we are on the threshold of embarking on a new era of understanding and cooperation in consonance with the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, the Panchshila.

With the countries of African mainland and the Indian Ocean littoral, the traditional political ties of friendship within the broad framework of Non-Aligned movement and Afro-Asian solidarity have been underpinned by extensive economic and technical cooperation consisting of joint industrial ventures, deputation of experts in the fields of science and technology, teaching. rural development, public administration and health besides providing training facilities in various fields for the nationals of the African Continent in the Institutions of higher learning in India.

India's ties with Seychelles have drawn considerable support from the exchange of high-level visits and of purposeful delegations between the two countries. The latest in the series of such exchanges was an inter-Ministerial delegation led by Minister P. Loizeau of the Seychelles Government in March this year which tried to identify the areas of cooperation between the two countries. Our Foreign Minister's brief visit to Seychelles immediately thereafter and the visit of the Indian delegation to Seychelles in June this year for working out an Air Services Agreement have further bolstered

the efforts made by both the countries to intensify the areas of meaningful cooperation between them. As a gesture of goodwill, in response to the urgent personal request from President Rene, our Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai had recently agreed to donate to the Seychelles Government again this year, a quantity of corrugated iron sheets, similar to last year, although India had been obliged to put a stop to any new commitments for export of this item due to difficult supply position. This gesture has been done in a spirit of cooperation and goodwill between neighbours and in the hope that this would assist in meeting the essential requirements of the peoples of Seychelles.

These exchanges have now culminated, as far as our mutual cooperation in the economic and technical fields is concerned, in the signing of an Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between the two countries, which was signed today. This institutionalisation of our economic and technical cooperation is but a true reflection of the depth of the ties that bind us and add a new dimension to our relations.

Later this afternoon an air Agreement, an outcome of the visit of the Indian delegation to Seychelles in June this year, is to be signed. These are but two instances of India-Seychelles cooperation with its potential for increasing exchanges of experience in diverse fields for mutual benefit.

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India and Seychelles are next shore neighbours. The Indian Ocean which we are fortunate to share, straddling as it does, the major shipping lanes of the world including those of vital interest to both of us, is a matter of utmost concern to us as it is for all other nations in its littoral. India, like Seychelles, is keen to ensure that this area of potential tensions is kept free of great power rivalry. We call on all the countries of the world, including the Great Powers, to keep the Indian Ocean a Zone of Peace, in line with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution. India looks forward to further growth of understanding and cooperation, with Seychelles, to which we have

made a modest beginning today. In the context of our traditional ties of friendship and increasing cooperation in diverse fields, it is no exaggeration to say that India-Seychelles friendship and the extent and intensity of cooperation for mutual benefit will show greater depth in the days to come.

I once again take this opportunity to welcome our distinguished visitor from Seychelles, H.E. Mr. Guy Sinon, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Tourism of the Government of the Republic of Seychelles, on behalf of the Government of India, and the people of India and on my own behalf. I wish him a happy stay in this country during his first-ever official visit to this country.

Thank you.

SEYCHELLES INDIA USA BHUTAN NEPAL SRI LANKA BANGLADESH BURMA PAKISTAN CHINA

Date: Oct 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

SEYCHELLES

Air Services Agreement Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 30, 1978 on the Air Services agreement between India and Seychelles:

An agreement between the Government of India and the Government of the Republic of Seychelles relating to Air Services was signed here today. Shri Purushottam Kaushik, Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation signed the agreement on behalf of India and Mr. Guy Sinon, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism, Government of Seychelles signed on behalf of his Government.

The Air Agreement provides that both

Air-India and Seychelles Airlines Ltd., would be entitled to operate a maximum of two services a week between India and Seychelles on the specified route. Both Airlines would operate Boeing 707 aircraft or aircraft similar or smaller capacity but excluding supersonic aircraft.

At present Air India is operating one service a week to Seychelles on the route Bombay/Seychelles/Mauritius and back since June 1976. The Seychelles Airlines Ltd., has not yet started operating to India.

With a view to increasing traffic between India and Seychelles, Air India has introduced excursion fare for this Island at a discount of 37 per cent return fare with a minimum validity for 7 days and maximum of 35 days stay at Seychelles.

SEYCHELLES INDIA USA MAURITIUS

Date: Oct 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Shri Sanjiva Reddy's Speech at Banquet in Honour of President of Sri Lanka

The President, Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy, made the following speech at the Banquet in honour of President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka in New DON on October 27, 1978:

Mr. President, Excellencies, Friends, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you, and Mrs. Jayewardene along with the distinguished members of your party.

It is a matter of pride for us that you have chosen to make your first official visit, as President of Sri Lanka, to our shores.

Your visit, Excellency, is yet another link, and a very important one, in the long chain of exchanges between our two countries, which stretches back to a time when the aroma of mythology began to merge into the fragrance of history. Our peoples have been influenced profoundly and have gained immeasurably from the teachings of the great Buddha. The path of tolerance that is firmly ingrained in us, as a result, has happily governed our relations and our approach to each other over the years.

In recent times, this spirit of tolerance has been reflected in the reaffirmation of democracy in Sri Lanka, which you so valiantly spearheaded last year and which has ensured for you a cherished niche in the history of your country. In the history of our two countries, the year 1977 will indeed be a year of special importance. It was then that the people in both countries showed the innate strength of their commitments to freedom. It is this overwhelming mandate of the people which imposes upon us the primary obligation to maintain and preserve the freedoms and to nurture our democratic traditions. The task that my Government has embarked upon, in the wake of these changes, is to provide to the people a quality of life, both material and spiritual, that is consistent with basic human rights and freedom. While we shall spare no effort or sacrifice to achieve these objectives, the modest beginnings that have been made are aimed primarily at spreading the benefits of development to all sections of our people. In our endeavours, we can learn much from your experience, and Your visit, will provide us with some opportunities for this purpose. I mention this particularly because we have watched with admiration and interest the efforts of your Government in the various fields of developmental activity aimed at improving the standard of life of your people.

Mr. President, with so much in common that we have with your country, it is not unnatural that in the global context we share similar views and strive towards identical goals. In our own region of South Asia, the prospects for laying foundations of peace and cooperation have never been greater. This need is felt more intensly by all of us who strive with courage and determination towards the goal of co-operative effort to better the lot of the people of this region. We recognise that all our countries must feel truly equal and sovereign. We have taken several initiatives and undertaken concrete steps, often at some sacrifice to ourselves, so that the South Asia region may become a region of peace, stability and co-operation. But when the insistent demand of the people of South Asia is for a better life, our efforts cannot stop merely at eliminating conflict or confrontation. We must look further bevond, to achieve friendly and meaningful cooperation in diverse fields of constructive human endeavour. It is a matter of considerable satisfaction for all of us that between Sri Lanka and India, we have already made steady progress in this direction.

NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT

As active participants in the Non-Aligned Movement, which under the Chairmanship of your Government, has a special responsibility for peace and progress in the world, it is not only in the bilateral field that our co-operation and joint endeavours assume importance. It was your vision, Mr. President, which brought the Colombo Plan into existence. While it is indeed the national right and responsibility to pursue the process of development best suited to one's own country, the imperatives of the present situation are such that regional co-operation in the spirit of mutuality of benefit provides one of the main answers to the problem of expanding the economic and commercial horizons of the non-aligned countries. In this endeavour, may I reiterate our willingness to contribute fully from our resources of experience, knowledge and manpower and our determination to increase trade and economic co-operation among developing countries.

Excellency, it is my hope that your visit will give further fillip to the constructive dialogue that we are engaged in to build a more enduring relationship and the edifice

on which we could expand the co-operation to include our other friends in the region.

Mr. President, it is my hope that your visit will be spiritually and materially a satis-

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fying one and you will have the opportunity of experiencing the affection and the bonds of friendship which the people of India feel for the people of Sri Lanka. In the confidence that these bonds will grow and further strengthen, may I now request, ladies and gentlemen, to rise and drink to the health and happiness of His Excellency President Jayewardene and Mrs. Jayewardene; to the happiness, prosperity and well-being of the people of Sri Lanka; and to the ever-lasting friendship between Sri Lanka and India.

SRI LANKA USA INDIA

Date: Oct 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

SRI LANKA

Joint Press Statement

The following is the text of the India-Sri Lanka joint press statement issued in New Delhi on October 30, 1978:

His Excellency Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka arrived in New Delhi on October 27 on a State visit to India. He had discussions with His Excellency the President, the Prime Minister and other Ministers concerned. They covered a wide range of subjects of importance in bilateral cooperation and international relations. The discussions were conducted in a spirit of cordiality and friendship and were very fruitful. The President of Sri Lanka and the Prime Minister of India discussed various concrete possibilities for expanding the field of bilateral cooperation. It was felt that the climate was now more favourable for their development, and that considerable work had already been done for identifying suitable areas. It was, therefore, agreed that the India-Sri Lanka Sub-Committee on Economic Cooperation would meet more frequently, and that the Working Groups would initiate action on their recommendations as early as possible. In addition, the two Governments would also exchange delegations at the Ministerial level at an early date to work out methods to increase trade flows, and to stimulate Indian investment in joint ventures in Sri Lanka.

The President of Sri Lanka laid a wreath at the Rajghat Samadhi, inaugurated a Shrine Room at the Sri Lanka Buddhist Pilgrims Rest House at New Delhi and was given a Civic Reception by the Delhi Municipal Corporation. His Excellency the President of India hosted a Banquet in his honour. The President of Sri Lanka also gave a Television Interview and a Press Conference.

The President of Sri Lanka extended invitations to the President and the Prime Minister of India to visit Sri Lanka at a mutually convenient time. The invitations were accepted with pleasure.

The President left New Delhi on the 30th morning on a pilgrimage to places of Buddhist worship in India. He will also visit Calcutta and Madras. He is accompanied by Mrs. J. R. Jayewardene and officials of the President's Secretariat.

SRI LANKA INDIA USA PERU

Date: Oct 01, 1978

Volume No

Third Meeting of Joint Commission

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 26, 1978 on the third meeting of the Indo-Swedish Joint Commission. The protocol and agreed minutes were signed by Mr. Bertil Sward, Head of the Swedish Delegation and Shri U. S. Bajpai, Head of the Indian Delegation:

The Indo-Swedish Joint Commission on economic, industrial, technical and scientific

319 cooperation, established according to the Agreement on November 11, 1972, held its third meeting in New Delhi from October 23 to 26, 1978.

The Swedish delegation was led by Mr. Bertil Sward, Director-General and Special Adviser to the Minister of Commerce, while Mr. U. S. Bajpai, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, was the Chairman of the Indian delegation. The two delegations were composed of officials and were assisted by experts from trade and industry as well as science and technology.

During his stay in India, the Chairman of the Swedish delegation called on Shri Mohan Dharia, Minister for Commerce and Shri S. S. Marathe, Secretary, Ministry of Industry.

The discussions in the Joint Commission were carried out in two plenary sessions and in a number of sessions of the two Sub-Commissions. The first of these covered Indo-Swedish trade as well as industrial cooperation while the second was concerned with technical and scientific cooperation.

At the plenary session, the Chairman of the Indian delegation drew attention to the imbalance in the Indo-Swedish trade. He stressed that the trade deficit on the Indian side could be rectified by a diversion of Sweden's imports from India into non-tra-ditional finished goods. He broadly reviewed the favourable trend of the Indian economy which would provide new opportunities for Indo-Swedish co-operation in the commercial, industrial and technological fields, There was also considerable scope for increasing the co-operation between the two countries.

The Chairman of the Swedish delegation stated that Sweden's exports to India had fluctuated considerably during the present decade. As for the trade surplus in favour of Sweden in the first half of the current year, it should be seen in the context of special purchases and transactions, such as the delivery of ships. The financing of some purchases through the Indo-Swedish development co-operation programme should also be kept in mind. It would be in the interest of both countries to increase and diversify their trade. Steps by the Government of India to facilitate and stimulate the production of Swedish companies operating in India would contribute to a deepening and strengthening of the economic cooperation between the two countries. Furthermore, it was noted that the Swedish Parliament recently passed a new bill on international development cooperation. These legislative measure put inter-alia emphasis on the concept of appropriate technology and have resulted in the creation of a Fund for Industrial Co-operation with developing countries. The Chairman of the Swedish delegation noted in conclusion that the Joint Commission should try to establish more frequent contacts and-continuity in cooperation based on the experience gained so far.

The Indian delegation gave a detailed background of Indian industrial policy with reference to foreign investment and of the new liberalised import policy.

After the plenary session, there were detailed discussions in the two Sub-Commission on 24 and 25 October.

Regarding co-operation in the field of science and technology, the Commission noted with satisfaction that considerable pro-

gress had been made in regard to the implementation of well defined projects in several fields of mutual benefit and relevance, notably those of metallurgy and oil seed technology-A number of new projects, particularly in the fields of enzyme engineering and anti-flood prediction, were discussed and procedures for expeditious processing of proposals were agreed upon. The main conclusions reached during these discussions are given in the Agreed Minutes of this Sub-Commission.

The Sub-Commission on Trade and Industry made a detailed review on on-going and new proposals for Indo-Swedish industrial co-operation. It was agreed that the following sectors would particularly offer prospects for increased co-operation between India and Sweden - Automotive Industries, Food Processing and Agro Industries, Forestry and industries based on forest resources, Paper and pulp machinery, Building and Building industry, Special steel manufacture, Pollution control equipment, Renewable energy sources, Tele-Communication and Marine equipments.

The Sub-Commission discussed possible cooperation between the two countries in third countries.

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It was noted that the trade between the two countries had expanded and that there were prospects for further increase. The desire of the Indian side to export more items and especially those falling under the nontraditional sector was noted by the Swedish side. Engineering goods, finished leather and leather goods, manufactured chemicals were identified as promising areas for exports to Sweden. Direct exports of tea had also been showing encouraging results. Spices and shellac were identified as areas having good potential for the Swedish market. It was agreed that there was need to exchange trade delegations between the two countries.

The Agreed Minutes of the two Sub-Commissions are deemed to be part of this Protocol.

Date: Oct 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Indo-Soviet Protocol on Cooperation in Agriculture

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 19, 1978 on Indo-Soviet protocol on cooperation in agriculture:

A protocol for long-term programme of cooperation between India and the USSR in the field of agriculture and animal husbandry was signed here today.

His Excellency Dr. D. A. Runov, USSR Deputy Minister for Agriculture signed the protocol on behalf of the Government of USSR and Shri G. V. K. Rao, Secretary, Agriculture and Irrigation signed on behalf of India.

The protocol is in pursuant to the first meeting of the Working Group held in Moscow in July 1978 in terms of protocol of the Fourth Meeting of the Inter-Governmental Indo-Soviet Joint Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation. A 12-member USSR delegation headed by Dr. Runov, came to India on October 14 to work out details.

It was agreed that in the field of animal husbandry USSR would supply pure-bred Marino sheep and Pashmina goats. The two sides would exchange specialists, scientific information and their experience in the field of genetics work. USSR would also provide training of personnel in artificial insemination. In Karakul sheep breeding, USSR

would co-operate by exchanging specialists and results of researches.

A long term programme will be worked out to develop genetics of cattle and buffaloes by providing the use of local breeds from the USSR and India.

In the field of agricultural crops, it was agreed to exchange germ plasm of both cultivated and wild plants of mutual interest with the main objective of utilising them in breeding programmes to improve the productivity of crops. High yielding varieties would be exchanged for tests under different agro-climatic conditions of the two countries for identifying suitable varieties with higher productivity and resistance to pests and diseases. The two sides would carry out joint projects on plant breeding, seed production and agronomy of wheat, rice, sorghum, cotton, sunflower, sugar beet, gram, peas, triticale and other crops of mutual interest. Techniques for the control of pests and diseases of cultivated plants and stored grains would also be developed. It was also agreed to exchange scientific information, students and experts and arrange joint symposia.

It was agreed that the possibilities of purchase/manufacture under licence of a suitable single engined helicopter for agricultural purposes would also be examined.

Indian specialists would study Soviet agro-aviation techniques for seeding, fertilisation and herbicide operations. They would also study Soviety technology for production of cereals, oilseeds, sugar beet, livestock production, mechanisation of agriculture, re-

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clamation and exploitation of desert and saline, alkaline soil. The two sides would consider the possibilities of exchange of groups of farmers.

Possibility of India's supplying vegetable seeds to Soviet Union and USSR making available spare parts for the Soviet gifted machinery to Suratgarh farm will also be considered.

The USSR delegation, led by H.E. Mr. B. A. Runov includes Mr. L. A. Korbut, Deputy Chairman of the State Committee of the USSR for production and technical requirements of agriculture; Mr. A. A. Urkenbaev, Minister for Agriculture of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic; Mr. A. V. Pukhalskey, Deputy Academecian - Secretary of Plant-Growing and Selection (VASHNIL); Mr. F. A. Overchuk, Deputy Chief of Department on Cooperation with developed and developing countries, Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR; Mr. L. L. Testov, Chief Engineer, V/O Selkbozpromexport; Mr. N. I. Fomin, Head of Laboratory, VNIIT Institute, Ministry of Purveyance of the USSR; Mr. N. Gremov, Chief of Foreign Trade Organisation. Other four members are from the Embassy of the USSR in India.

INDIA USA LATVIA PERU CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC RUSSIA UNITED KINGDOM ITALY

Date: Oct 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Agreed Minutes Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on October 6, 1978 on the signing of agreed minutes between India and the United Arab Emirates:

India and the United Arab Emirates today signed Agreed Minutes of the discussions at the conclusion of the visit of H. H. Shaikh Tahnoun Bin Mohamed Al-Nahyan, Governor of Eastern Province, and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company at the invitation of Shri H. N. Bahuguna, Minister for Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilisers.

The Minutes were signed by Shri Romesh Bhandari Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs on behalf of the Government of India and Mr. Mahmoud Hamra Krouha, General Manager, Abu Dhabi National Oil Company on behalf of the visiting delegation.

During his stay in India, H. H. Shaikh Tahnoun Bin Mohamed Al Nahyan called on the President of India and held discussions with Shri Bahuguna, Minister of Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilizers, Shri George Fernandes, Minister of Industry, Shri Biju Patnaik, Minister of Steel and Mines and Shri Mohan Dharia, Minister of Commerce. In these discussions, existing exchanges and cooperation between the two countries were reviewed and areas and possibilities of increasing and diversifying such cooperation were identified.

The following were the broad conclusions reached:

Abu Dhabi contemplates the setting up of facilities for production of nitrogenous fertilisers using gas as feedstock. Considering the interest expressed by the Indian side and bearing in mind India's long-term requirement of fertilisers, it was agreed that the question of an Indian equity participation in Abu Dhabi's fertiliser project, or of long-term arrangement for supply of fertiliser to India to the mutual benefit of both countries would be gone into in detail at expert level. These discussions could cover all aspects of the matter and would be with a view to propose concrete formulae for the approval of the two Governments.

Reference was made by the Minister for Steel and Mines regarding the production of semi-finished steel in Abu Dhabi based upon raw materials to be supplied by India. Such semi-finished steel could meet the requirements of the UAE and the balance could be re-exported to India or third countries. India

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has abundant supply of raw materials and

gas could be made available in Abu Dhabi. An arrangement whereby raw materials from India could be processed by using gas in Abu Dhabi would be to mutual advantage. This possibility had been investigated a few years ago but did not materialize. The Minister confirmed the interest of Government to enter into a joint venture for this project. H. H. Shaikh Tahnoun promised to relay the idea to the Government of Abu Dhabi and to inform the competent authorities about this project. In any case the studies made in the past need to be updated and a fresh feasibility report would be prepared by the Indian side for consideration by the UAE.

The Minister for Industry referred to India's capabilities in all aspects of power generation, transmission and maintenance. Reference was also made to the role Indian companies could play in the fields of construction, including the building of roads, bridges and airports. It was agreed by both sides that these areas held out considerable potential and greater Indian involvement and participation in these and other developmental activities would be welcome and should be encouraged. Several Indian companies were already operating in the UAE as sub-contractors and in some cases even as primecontractors. They had earned a good reputation and a larger participation by them would be to the advantage of both sides.

CONSULTANCY SERVICES AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

India has now developed a varying and competent knowhow in the field of consultancy services. It was agreed by both sides that, when possible, a greater utilisation of Indian consultancy should be encouraged.

India agreed to facilitate the deputation of experts and specialists as may be required and to the training of UAE technicians in Indian complexes and institutes.

In addition to the quantity already being made available by ADNOC to IOC, India's interest in an additional supply of 300,000 tonnes; for the last quarter of 1978 was indicated. H. H. Shaikh Tahnoun agreed to give

consideration to this question, within the limits of availability.

The Minister of Commerce indicated the vast potential that exists for increased trade exchanges between India and the UAE. For this purpose, it was agreed that a greater awareness of each other's capabilities and requirements would contribute greatly to further stimulating bilateral trade. Both sides will arrange for exchange of visits by suitable delegations.

Reference was made to an application from the Emirates Commercial Bank, which was still pending with the Indian authorities. It was agreed by the Indian side that immediate efforts would be made to arrive at a favourable decision on this application.

DRUGS AND PHARMACEUTICALS

It was recognised that there was great promise of cooperation in the field of manufacture of drug formulation and export of high quality drugs and pharmaceuticals in Abu Dhabi. The public sector drug and pharmaceutical industry in India was well developed and discussions in this regard could be held with the IDPL. It was indicated that the Government of India will invite in the near future the Minister of Health of UAE to visit India and see the factories set up for production of drugs and pharmaceuticals and for quality control and research as well as Indian technical capability to set up manufacturing plants.

It was explained that the ONGC, a public sector undertaking of the Government has now acquired considerable expertise in both on shore and off shore exploration and development and was now in a position to offer consultancy and related services to Abu Dhabi in this sector. It was agreed that possibilities in this direction for mutual collaboration would be further looked into at the technical level.

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Date : Oct 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

UNITED NATIONS

Foreign Minister's Speech in General Assembly

The following statement was made by Shri Atal Bihari Bajpayee, Minister of External Affairs, at the XXXIII Session of the United Nations General Assembly on October 10,1978:

Mr. President, may I extend to you on behalf of my delegations and myself, our warm felicitations on your unanimous election as President of the 33rd Session of the General Assembly? Your elevation to this high office is as much a tribute to your diplomatic skill and eminence as it is a recognition of the constructive role played by your country, Colombia, in world affairs.

We are glad to welcome Solomons Islands as the youngest and 150th member of the United Nations. We have every hope that this newest partner of the Family of Nations will make a useful contribution to the work of this world body.

Mr. President, enduring peace, the maintenance of which is one of the principal purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, is the age-old aspiration of man. It is one of the abiding yearnings of the common man in all parts of our planet. It is both an elemental urge, like freedom from starvation and want, as well as the ultimate objective of every society. It is the yardstick with which to measure the excellence of any social organisation; a happy society is where peace reigns supreme. That is why the prayers of all - irrespective of religion and belief end with an invocation to peace.

TENDER PLANT

And yet, in spite of centuries of the care and nourishment bestowed upon it, world peace still remains a tender plant buffetted by occasional whiffs of cold war, threatened by injustice and inequity and dwarfed by the indignities that are still heaped by man upon man.

Even though the clouds gathering over the international horizon have lifted of late and the process of detente, which had suffered a set-back, has regained some momentum, the vision of a durable world peace has yet to take firm shape. Since I last stood before this august Assembly, rivalry for spheres of influence has adversely affected some new areas, There is no let up in the arms race quantitatively or qualitatively. Disarmament is still a distant goal; and the probability of a nuclear war looms over us like a menacing shadow. Doubts that new alignments are being forged against old adversaries and that preparations are being made to play a new card to outwit the opponents, have introduced an unexpected dimension in the international scenario.

One of the principal causes of the continuing threat to peace is that world politics as well as world economy are dominated by the interests of a few countries. This is not a new phenomenon; it has its roots in history. The compulsion to gain strategic advantages and the propensity to exploit differences continue to characterise the international climate. Institutions of multilateral militarism are being maintained and the urge to deploy them for sectarian purposes is growing instead of diminishing. Some of these institutions are known to have lost their relevance or usefulness. Yet, the political courage to bury them is found lacking.

There is no doubt that the Big Powers can do a great deal more to improve the international atmosphere by exemplary behaviour and by displaying greater understanding of each other's legitimate interests. But this understanding has to be within the

framework of an equitable international order in which smaller and medium-sized countries would enjoy assured peace, equality and justice. Unless there is genuine acceptance of the principle of peaceful co-existence, the desire to live and let live, and the determination to convert cold war confrontation into competitive cooperation, the process of detente will not show the desired results.

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Detente is only a first step in creating the climate for finding long-term solutions to problems with a view to achieving durable peace. We welcome the process of detente because of its multiplier effect, if it is pursued in the right spirit. We have, therefore, been urging its extension to all fields of activity and to all parts of the globe.

Mr. President, each member nation of this august body is endowed with its own national genius and its distinctive national personality and ethos. Each follows its own socioeconomic system and has its specific pattern and strategy of development.

STAKE IN PEACE

Any attempt to impose conformity based on ideological and other considerations and to reduce the rich diversity of nations to a common denominator will not only divest this world of its infinite variety but also pose serious threats to peace.

The Charter prohibits the use of force save in self-defence or in the common interest and requires the settlement of disputes by peaceful means.

And yet nations have been resorting to force against each other, quite often aided and abetted from outside and with the consequential dangers of exploitation and domination. We have seen that while such conflicts may sometimes come to an end as a result of external intervention, cessation of hostilities is seldom followed by genuine peace. The root cause of the conflict often remains unresolved, while the strategic in-

terests of outside parties become deeply entrenched.

In the long run, disputes and conflicts can be amicably settled only through mutual understanding and accommodation. By building solid foundations of mutual cooperation, nations can develop a stake in peace, stability and good neighbourliness which will be impervious to the outbursts of momentary differences which are bound to arise from time to time.

As recommended in the Declaration of the Conference of the Foreign Ministers of the Non-aligned Countries held in Belgrade in July, 1978, Governments involved in dis-Putes should make every effort themselves to reach a peaceful settlement through bilateral negotiations. Some regional organisations, as well as the U.N. itself, provide mechanisms for conciliation although their efficacy would obviously depend on the spirit, goodwill and mutual accommodation that the parties themselves can show.

Peace remains endangered also because the resolution of major international disputes has been delayed or neglected far too long. Differences among nations, as among individuals if not resolved expeditiously, tend to erode trust which is the basic precondition for, resolving them.

UN OBJECTIVE

By far the most potent threat to world peace is the continuing arms race, particularly of nuclear armaments. It militates against the fundamental objective of the United Nations "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war". The arms race undermines the sovereignty and stability of nations. It also goes against such principles of the Charter as refraining from the threat or use of force and peaceful settlement of disputes. It is also contrary to the objective of the international community to establish a New International Economic Order. We must keep on reminding ourselves of the relationship between Disarmament which could save upto \$ 400 billion annually of infructuous expenditure and development chronically hampered by lack of funds. The contrast is unavoidable and the irony inescapable There is no greater distortion of resources allocation at the global level than those devoted to the arms race.

Decades of efforts have yielded only a few arms limitation measures such as the prohibition of certain kinds of nuclear tests, the agreement on the limitation of strategic arms (SALT) and the prohibiton of bacteriological weapons.

In spite of three rounds of talks between the USA and the Soviet Union on the Indian Ocean, there is no perceptible movement towards the goal of implementing the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. What is ironic is that the littoral countries, which are affected most by the Big Power rivalry in the Ocean, are not directly involved in these talks. We have been told that the talks will be resumed shortly and we trust that this would lead to a speedy elimination

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of Big Power rivalry and military presence in the Indian Ocean, thereby facilitating the implementation of the General Assembly resolution declaring the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

In the field of nuclear disarmament, there has been little real progress. This is indeed disturbing because of the threat nuclear weapons pose to the very survival of mankind. The nature of the current negotiations and their direction are not such as to assure mankind that the probability of a nuclear war will be reduced, if not removed. We, the non-nuclear weapon states, are entitled to this assurance, for the right to survival is basic to all other rights. We cannot therefore be indifferent to the outcome of the current negotiations. On the contrary, we would expect the negotiations to take fully into account the aspirations of the overwhelming majority for peace and security in a world free of weapons of mass destruction.

India believes that partial measures such

as the creation of nuclear weapon free zones comprising the nuclear have-nots are unlikely to generate any genuine feeling of security unless there is, at the same time, significant progress towards nuclear disarmament. Surely, the more urgent task is to reach agreement on measures for the non-use and the phased reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons and on a moratorium on all nuclear tests pending the conclusion of a genuine and non-discriminatory Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. It was with this in view that at the Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament, India took the initiative of tabling two draft resolutions covering these aspects of disarmament.

DISARMAMENT

The final objective must of course be to bring about general and complete disarmament under effective international control to which we all subscribed in the historic resolution adopted by the General Assembly in November 1959. It was obvious then as it is obvious now that disarmament should be general in the sense of its universal application and it should be complete in the sense of its covering all weapon systems.

We continue to believe that all aspects of disarmament, both nuclear and conventional, are important. Yet, it has been our consistent policy that nuclear disarmament must be given the topmost priority. The foremost task facing humanity is to dismantle and to destroy nuclear weapons. The concept of a security system of which nuclear weapons represent the most dangerous and totally unacceptable component must be abandoned.

We must recognise and accept the primary role of the United Nations in this field. It is a matter of great satisfaction to us that the Special Session succeeded in bringing disarmament deliberations and negotiations squarely within the United Nations.

Mr. President, it is the considered view of the Government of India that if we are to make Progress in moving towards our goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control, we should

take the following steps:

- 1. Cessation of the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear weapons, including in particular, the early conclusion of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, pending which a moratorium on further testing of nuclear weapons.
- 2. Cessation of the production of nuclear weapons and of fissionable material for weapons purposes.
- 3. Reduction and eventual elimination of existing stockpiles of nuclear weapons within an agreed time-frame.
- 4. Conclusion of a Convention on the non-use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances.
- 5. Elimination of all other weapons of mass destruction.
- 6. Limitation and gradual reduction of armed forces and conventional wea-Pons within the framework of a comprehensive programme of disarmament.

Mr. President, apart from the disarmament problem, there are other major issues of global concern which, if not resolved expeditiously and in a just and fair manner could tear asunder the fragile fabric of world peace.

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In the Middle East, there are at present some new moves and counter-moves and in the current fluid situation when the parties themselves are engaged in reassessing developments, it would be premature for us to pronounce any judgement. Suffice it to say that the Security Council Resolutions 242 and 335 and the relevant General Assembly resolutions on the Palestine question constitute a principled basis for a comprehensive and lasting peace settlement. We should like

to reaffirm in this connection certain principles that are fundamental for the establishment of enduring peace. These are: the non-acquisition of territory by force and the vacation of Arab and Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967; the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to a nation state of their own; and the right of all States in the Middle East to exist in security and peace within internationally recognised boundaries.

The situation in Lebanon is a source of continuing concern for all of us. Here is an unfortunate country which has fallen prey to the power politics of the Middle East and where at the moment, by a strange twist of fate, Arabs are killing other Arabs, encouraged and assisted by outside forces. There is no doubt in our mind that, first and foremost, national reconciliation in Lebanon must be achieved in order to immunise the country from external pressures. I am glad that the parties concerned have responded positively to the Security Council's call for an immediate cease-fire. It is important that the cease-fire should be scrupulously maintained. I hope that initiatives for a just and honourable reconciliation will be suported by all peace loving peoples.

Although the situation in divided Cyprus has remained peaceful during the past year chiefly due to the presence of the U.N. Force, there has been no progress either in regard to the withdrawal of foreign forces, or in the search for an agreed basis for resumption of the inter-communal negotiations. The dimensions of the Cyprus problem, both the external and internal aspects, are such that it can be solved by peaceful means, provided the parties concerned recognise the legitimate rights and interests of each other and are willing to display a spirit of mutual accommodation. However, no solution will last unless it respects the unity, sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and non-alignment of Cyprus.

The Preamble of the Charter "reaffirms faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and of

all nations, large and small". This objective is directly related to the purpose of the United Nations to maintain international peace and security. For peace does not lie in a mere cessation of hostilities or containment of conflicts or even in disarmament measures concluded in a general environment of violence, coercion and subjugation. As Gandhiji said: "The way to peace is the way to truth". Truth lies in equality and justice. An individual cannot pursue truth, the highest urge of his soul, unless he is able to exercise his fundamental freedoms and human rights.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Nothing is more degrading to human dignity than the practice of discrimination on the ground of race. Similarly first step towards ensuring equality among nations is to take the process of decolonisation to its logical conclusion.

In Southern Africa, we continue to witness the most pernicious combination of colonial domination and racial discrimination. The minority whites regime of South Africa in a bid to preserve its privileges, has been subjecting the majority population to the worst forms of human degradation, including torture, brutal repression, slavery and the denial of all fundamental freedoms.

The United Nations has been seized with this matter since India raised it for the first time in the first session of the General Assembly in 1946. Since then, the South African Government has openly and flagrantly flouted all the UN resolutions, decisions and sanctions. It has done so partly because of the supporting defiance of U.N. resolutions by other countries. We must not let our reiteration of opposition to this racist policy become a mere ritual at annual General Assembly sessions. The international community cannot evade its responsibility for taking effective measures to liquidate the dehumanising practice of apartheid.

With the adoption of Security Council Resolution 435 on 29 September, there is some hope that the illegal occupation of Namibia by the South African Government can be ended peacefully. Namibia can

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emerge as an independent country with majority rule, not by the sham internal settlement sought to be promoted by the South African regime but only with the full implementation of the Security Council resolution. If the South African Government rejects the plan approved by the Security Council, and reverts to its familiar path of intransigence and defiance of world public opinion, the armed liberation struggle is bound to be intensified. The Security Council would then be fully justified in invoking the application of measures under Chapter VII of the Charter.

We believe that the present stalemate in Zimbabwe is largely due to the ambivalence of some Powers on the question of the "internal settlement". The only effective way to end the stalemate and perpetuation of the illegal regime of Ian Smith is to transfer power to the elected majority on the basis of one man and one vote and an agreed plan for the transition to genuine independence. Meanwhile we should continue the sanctions against the racist regime, widen their scope and apply them more rigorously.

Decolonisation, elimination of racism and racial discrimination and economic liberation of peoples are essential preconditions for securing the fundamental rights of peoples and for the promotion of human dignity and the free exercise of human rights. Equally important is the need for national governments assuming the primary responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the fundamental freedoms of the individual.

The historic mandate of Indian people in favour of fundamental freedoms left no doubt regarding the deep-seated and basic commitments of our people to human values and human rights. We, therefore, attach great importance to the activities of the United Nations devoted to this important issue of our times.

We cannot achieve a durable and just peace until there is a transformation of the very quality and structure of the present world order. Characterised by glaring inequalities and imbalances among nations and the widening chasm between the rich and the Poor countries, the existing order works inexorably against the interest of the poorer countries.

The prevalence of mass poverty among a sizeable proportion of the world population (as much as 800 million) living in developing countries, is in large part attributable to the inequities of the present international economic system. Poverty breeds tension, debases human personality and makes a mockery of the achievements of science and technology.

Recent developments have shown that basically there is an unwillingness on the part of the major developed countries to begin serious negotiations to restructure the world economic order. The General Assembly Committee of the Whole was expected to be the supreme U.N. body to monitor, supervise and impart momentum to negotiations on major development issues in all U.N. forums. But for almost a year after its creation, it has not even got off the ground. We hope that following a discussion of this subject in the Plenary of the Assembly, an agreement would soon be reached enabling the Committee to resume its work on the basis of its, original mandate.

The developed countries have not till now agreed even to discuss at the international level, the question of bringing about structural changes in their economies for the optimal utilisation of world resources and specifically for facilitating increased imports from developing countries.

PROTECTIONISM

Some of the developed countries have recently refused even to reiterate their commitment for attaining the target of the Second International Development Strategy for providing 0.70% of GNP as official development assistance to developing countries.

There is, on the other hand, a resurgence of protectionism in the developed market economy countries in the form of an increase in the incidence and scope of selective nontariff barriers as well as anti-dumping duties.

The measures that the developed countries are prepared to adopt are still in the nature of tinkerings with the present world economic order and in the form of hesitant ad hoc concessions.

The developed countries have sought to justify these retrogressive actions as a means to deal with their admittedly real problems of unemployment and stagflation. It should,

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however, be obvious that these short-term and short-sighted measures, apart from having disastrous consequences for the development prospects of the developing countries, are neither conducive to a healthy growth of the world economy nor in their own long-term interests. No lasting solution to the malaise afflicting the world economy can be found until a concerted effort is made to provide adequate purchasing power to two-thirds of the world population. It is, therefore, incumbent upon the developed countries to adopt a global, comprehensive and long-term approach for dealing with their present economic problems.

ECONOMIC ORDER

Mr. President, the call by this Assembly for ushering in a new era of international economic relations has given rise to world-wide expectations. We, therefore, cannot afford the present stalemate in the negotiations between the devloped and developing countries. We must exercise our collective will to continue the onward march towards our common goal. What is needed is:

firstly, to conclude well before the Fifth UNCTAD, the ongoing negotiations for establishing the Common Fund, adopting a Code of Conduct for Transfer of Technology to Developing countries, and for

extending special preferential trade concessions to developing countries within the framework of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations;

Secondly, to arrest the present protectionist trend by strictly adhering to the commitment not to raise fresh barriers, to dismantle the existing protectionist barriers, and to take positive steps for improving the access of developing countries' exports in the markets of the developed countries;

thirdly, to commence negotiations within a time bound framework, on other key issues having a vital bearing on the restructuring of the international economic system; such as concluding a comprehensive series of commodity agreements, ensuring adequate flow of financial resources on a dependable basis and softest terms and conditions, evolving a multilateral framework for debt renegotiations, reforming the international monetary system, formulating a code of conduct for transnational corporation etc;

fourthly, to initiate negotiations with a view to adopting an international programme for setting in motion an adjustment process in the world economy and bringing about structural changes in the economies of developed countries geared to utilising fully the development potentialities of the developing countries:

fifthy, to formulate a new International Development strategy conceived within the framework of the New International Economic Order and embodying a set of consistent and inter-related goals and objectives and commitments to adopt time-bound means to attain these objectives; and

finally, for the developing countries to go all out to utilise the vast potentialities of mutual cooperation by strengthening the existing links and forging new links of economic, commercial and technical collaboration.

SEABED RESOURCES

Mr. President, the negotiations which have been going on for about five years at the U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea have far-reaching implications for the effort of the international community to evolve a new world order. While it has been possible to make headway on certain important issues, the main problem of establishing a regime for the exploitation of the resources of the seabed area lying outside the limits, of national jurisdiction, remains unsettled. This is mainly due to the persistent hesitation of the major developed countries to recognise fully the legitimate interests of the developing countries in this common heritage of mankind. It is incumbent on all of us to ensure that the work of the Conference comes to a successful conclusion as expeditiously as possible. If at this critical stage of the work of the Conference, any State adopts unilateral mining legislation, it will seriously affect the future negotiations to the detriment of the interests of the world community as a whole.

On all these important issues the nonaligned nations have always adopted a consistent and principled approach. From a small beginning in 1961, this Movement has

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grown, within the span of two decades, into a mighty force, encompassing almost two-thirds of the countries of the world. The non-aligned Movement has not only enabled the newly independent nations to consolidate their political freedom but has also given them the strength to resist all forms of foreign domination, overt and covert, obvious or subtle. It has thrown its weight in favour of international peace and justice.

It is indeed heartening to note that some of the big countries that earlier used to frown upon the Movement, now recognise its role and its validity. The Movement has been able to preserve its unity despite multitudinous diversities of geography, races, language and religions, of differing social and

political systems and varying stages of economic development; - because of its strict adherence to the principle of equality of nations, large and small, respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of others.

NEIGHBOURLY TIES

As a signatory to the UN Charter and as a founder member of the group of nonaligned nations, India has assiduously tried to conduct its International relations in a manner intended to promote peace, understanding and cooperation throughout the world. India has taken a number of significant initiatives towards stability and peace in South Asia region. In this we have accorded the highest priority to improving the climate of cooperation with our neighbours. We sincerely hope that our endeavours will ultimately overcome the old suspicions and irritations, thus paving the way for undertaking new ventures of mutual cooperation. With the vast majority of the developing countries we have joined hands in trying to shape a world free from want and injustice.

Our policy is to develop bilateral relations with all nations on the basis of the imperative of close economic cooperation and shared ideals. It is our firm belief that the tapestry of world peace can be woven only with the strands of such bilateral relations.

We stand for an ever expanding role being played by the United Nations in bringing within its purview all issues of universal concern and in being instrumental in the promotion of international peace, justice and cooperation. We reaffirm our commitment to making this body a more effective instrument in bringing about a qualitative change in the world situation. We attach great importance to the role of the United Nations as a forum for formulating, negotiating and supervising the implementation of global development strategies. We may not, in the foreseeable future, be able to establish a world government- but we can at least move towards the realisation of the goal of one world by devising and implementing, under.

the aegis of the United Nations, international development plans and programmes - both over-all as well as for as many sectors of human activities as possible.

Mr. President, we must build on the foundations of the United Nations, a better world for all of us. Modern science and technology has opened up immense opportunities which can either be used for jeopardising The very future of our planet or can be harnessed to bring about progress and prosperity. Instead of wasting our energy in petty squabbles and frittering away our resources on piling up arms, we must employ them for wiping every tear from every eye and eliminating every ache from every heart. I trust in the critical years ahead of us, we shall demonstrate our determination, realism, and sagacity to realise the dreams of our saints and savants for universal peace based on freedom and justice. I should like to conclude by reciting a quotation from Thiruvalluvar, one of the most famous ancient poet-saints of South India:

"Where there is no terrible famine, no cruel pestilence, no foreign enemy to invade and ravage, where peace always reigns, that is the ideal land."

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USA COLOMBIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC PERU YUGOSLAVIA INDIA ISRAEL LEBANON CYPRUS SOUTH AFRICA NAMIBIA ZIMBABWE

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Date: Nov 01, 1978

Volume No

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Shipping Agreement Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 3, 1978 on the signing of the Indo-Czech Shipping Agreement:

India and Czechoslovakia today signed a shipping agreement. H.E. Mr. Frantisek Mares, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade, Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, signed on behalf of his Government and Shri S. Y. Ranade, Secretary, Ministry of Shipping, signed on behalf of the Government of India.

The agreement becomes effective after it is ratified by both the Governments.

Czechoslovakia being a land locked country, uses Ports in Poland and Yugoslavia.

Under this agreement, the earnings will be shared by India, Czechoslovakia and Poland or Yugoslavia on a 40:40:20 basis. The bilateral earnings will be exempted from income-tax by both the Governments.

After the signing ceremony, Shri Ranade expressed the hope that trade ties between the two countries would be strengthened further. Mr. Mares has expressed his confidence that as a result of this agreement the maritime trade between the two countries would show marked improvement in the coming months. He also disclosed that this was the first time that his country had entered a shipping agreement with another Government outside Europe.

NORWAY SLOVAKIA INDIA POLAND USA YUGOSLAVIA

Date: Nov 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Cultural Exchange Programme Signed

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 17, 1978 on the signing of an Indo-Czech cultural exchange programme:

A cultural exchange programme between India and Czechoslovakia for the years 1978-80 was signed here today. Shri P. Sabanayagam, Secretary, Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, and Mr. Milos Vojta, Deputy Foreign Minister of Czechoslovakia, signed on behalf of their respective Governments.

The programme envisages cooperation between the two countries in the fields of science and education, sports, art and culture, film, Radio and Television, and health.

Specific items relate to exchanges between technical institutions and in the fields of area studies and languages, performing arts, crafts, literature, libraries and museums.

Besides exchanging educational and scientific publications, both sides will arrange visits of university teachers, linguists and experts in various disciplines to each other's country for study and lecture tours. Scholarships will also be offered to Indian and Czechoslovak nationals for post-graduate studies or research.

They will also cooperate in the preparation of Hindi-Czech and Czech-Hindi dictionaries and applied Hindi grammar based on comparative study of the two languages. The two countries will also exchange one art exhibition each besides sending cultural troupes to each other's country.

In addition to holding reciprocal film weeks, both sides will exchange Radio and TV programmes and micro-films and documents of mutual interest. Visits by journalists will also be arranged.

Both sides will cooperate in the exchange of sports teams, coaches, films and literature on sports and physical education.

Speaking on the occasion, both Mr. Vojta and Shri Sabanayagam expressed the hope that the relations between their countries would be further strengthened with the signing of the programme.

NORWAY SLOVAKIA INDIA USA

Date: Nov 01, 1978

Volume No

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CUBA

Text of Speech of Shri Vajpayee at Dinner for H.E. Mr. Peoli

The following is the text of the speech by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, at a dinner held by him in honour of His Excellency Mr. Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Cuba, in New Delhi on November 19, 1978:

Your Excellency Mr. Malmierca and Friends, it is with great pleasure that I welcome Your Excellency and members of your Delegation tonight. It was my privilege to have met you first in Delhi last year at the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the. Coordinating Bureau of the Non-aligned

Movement. We met later in Belgrade at the Foreign Ministers' Conference. While Cuba and India are far apart geographically, our views are close on many international issues. The relations between our two countries are characterised by warmth, cordiality and goodwill.

There have recently been a number of exchanges between us - both official and non-official. Our Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Samarendra Kundu, attended the Second Ministerial Conference of the Non-aligned Co-ordinating Bureau at Havana in May. Two members of our Parliament, Shri R. K. Hegde and Shri Nanaji Deshmukh, participated in the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the attack on the Moncada Barracks at Havana. A 165member non-official youth delegation from India took part in the 11th World Youth Festival in your country. From Cuba we received a trade delegation last month and fruitful discussions were held. We were also happy to receive your expert on adult education to inform us of the remarkably successful methods employed by your Government for adult education. I am confident that the agreement signed today on cooperation in science and technology between our two Governments will result in greater exchange of information and technology to our mutual advantage.

COLLABORATION IN U.N.

Cuba and India have collaborated in the United Nations and other international fora against all forms of injustice-racial, political, economic and social. We are both foundermembers of the Non-aligned Movement and have striven to promote the objectives of the movement. Non-alignment signifies freedom from fear and independence of judgment. On the one hand, we believe that non-alignment facilitates the independent development of a nation in terms of its own ethos, cultural heritage and civilization. On the other, we believe that all non-aligned nations should join in the common endeavour to maintain the cohesiveness, solidarity and unity of the movement, and preserve its fundamental principles as well as common objectives. In

this, we feel, lies the best guarantee for peace.

To us, non-alignment was the logical extension into the international arena of the ideals and principles embedded in our strug-

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gle for national independence. When free India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru gave expression to this philosophy with its explicit call for opposition to imperialism, colonialism and racism, he articulated the aspirations of the newly-independent nations to assert their personality in a world which was dangerously divided in two mutually hostile military blocs. Non-alignment thus became the symbol as well as the rallying focus for the forces of independence against domination, peace against conflict and cooperation against confrontation.

NON-ALIGNMENT

Today the non-aligned movement has grown stronger and is becoming increasingly universalized. One of its most significant and perceptible contribution has been to highlight the growing irrelevance of military blocs and expose the hollowness of the rationale of framing policies on the basis of military groupism. The visible manifestation of this trend can be seen not only in the universal acceptance of non-alignment today, but also in the growing desire of many members of multilateral military blocs to associate with the ideals and objectives of the non-aligned movement.

Our ultimate aim, in the noble task of promotion of peace and stability and reinforcing understanding and cooperation among nations, is the rejection of military alliances and of the bloc approach to international politics. This would mean the conscious acceptance by all nations of peaceful, genuine and constructive co-existence irrespective of different social systems. Alliances would then lose their relevance, enabling nations to shed their inhibitions and make their contribution to international understanding and facilitate

mutually advatageous cooperation. Such cooperation would be directed to overcoming want and deprivation and to the establishment of a world order based on equity, justice and freedom from exploitation. This is the perspective in which we view the role of the non-aligned movement.

The solution of the economic problems inherited by the developing countries from the colonial era and compounded by the crippling grip of an exploitative, inequitable and unjust world economic order, requires considerable perseverance and determination. In Belgarde, we tried to find ways and means to take our economic action programme a step further towards implementation. We worked successfully to preserve unity and cohesion within the movement without any weakening of dilution of its basic postulates. We shall direct our efforts in the same spirit and towards the same ends at the Nonaligned Summit in Havana next year.

Your Excellency, it is our assessment that given the destructive capacity of the great powers today, as well as the economic and technological inter-dependence amongstthe nations of the world, there is no alternative to detente and disarmament. We have already seen some welcome signs of detente in Europe. It is our fervent hope that the process of detente should not only continue in Europe, but also spread to all parts of the world, especially where tensions still rage and conflicts threaten. At the United Nations and outside, we have always forcefully expressed our firm faith in total disarmament, both of nuclear and conventional arms. This is the only means for saving mankind from annihilation. It is also an important step to enable all nations to contribute to the establishment of new international economic order, which is not simply an important objective of the developing countries, but a means to preempt future conflict between two-thirds of the world which is poor and the one-thirds which is rich.

DEMOCRATIC ETHICS

The present Government in India is committed to seeking solutions to the problems

facing the country through strict adherence to democratic ethics and already several Important gains have been registered. We have been able to hold the price-line steady at a time when double-digit inflation is common in the developed world, and we have built up unprecedented foreign exchange reserves when many affluent countries face a crisis in their trade balance. We hope that the international economic climate will not deteriorate further and impose hardships that are felt most acutely by the developing world. Our present approach to economic development in our country is to lay greater stress on agriculture and small-scale industry to provide more employment to our people more quickly.

In foreign policy our first objective which, I am happy to say, we have achieved

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in good measure - has been to promote a climate of confidence and goodwill with our neighbours. With Pakistan, with Nepal and with Bangladesh, we have resolved important problems in a spirit of accommodation and cooperation to mutual benefit. We have only recently had the honour of receiving the President of Sri Lanka. His visit has served to strengthen the traditional friendship between our two countries. We have every reason to hope that peace and goodwill will gather strength in South Asia, and that we shall be left free from foreign interference to resolve such problems as may remain.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

I would like to take this opportunity to draw attention to the rapidly deteriorating situation in Southern Africa. The Pretoria regime has given yet another evidence of its perfidy by reneging on the obligations it had undertaken to carry out in Namibia. In Zimbabwe, the force of an internal settlement is using all the tricks, including blatant aggression against Zambia and Mozambique, to perpetuate itself. We are however convinced that all these manoeuvres are doomed to failure, that they would not succeed in stem-

ming the tide of history and that the will of the people struggling against racial bigotry and repression will ultimately prevail. We would be happy if this comes about through peaceful means, but if the minority racists are unwilling to see the writing on the wall, armed struggle may become inevitable for the attainment of majority rule in Namibia and Zimbabwe. The Government and the people of India have always extended and shall continue to extend full moral and material support to our brethren in Southern Africa.

Excellency, your present visit is all too brief for us to be able to give you a glimpse of the past glory and present progress of our country. I do hope you will come again soon and give us the opportunity of expressing once again our goodwill and friendship for your country and your people.

Your Excellency and friends, may I now request you to join me in a toast to the health of His Excellency Dr. Fidel Catsro, Rum, President of the Council of state and President of the Council of Ministers, Republic of Cuba; to His Excellency Air. Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, Minister of External Relations, Republic of Cuba and members of his delegation; and to the happiness, prosperity and well-being of the people of Cuba, and to the growing friendship between Cuba and India.

CUBA INDIA YUGOSLAVIA USA UNITED KINGDOM PERU NEPAL PAKISTAN BANGLADESH SRI LANKA SOUTH AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC NAMIBIA MOZAMBIQUE ZAMBIA ZIMBABWE

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In reply to the toast His Excellency Mr. Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Cuba said:

H.E. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Excellencies and Friends, first of all, I would like to express my gratitude for the kind invitation extended to us by our friend, the Honourable Foreign Minister of India, which has enabled us to visit, for the second time, this friendly country.

India and Cuba have had a similar past of colonial domination and of struggle for independence, and they both share common purposes of working for a world peace, free from the exploitation of one nation by another, an exploitation which finds in imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, racism and apartheid its most telling expression.

India and Cuba defend the principle that relations between States should be based on equality and mutual respect and they are both fully determined not to spare any efforts to bring about a new economic order which will meet the just aspirations of all peoples of the World.

This coincidence of positions led our two Countries to be among the founders of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Since its inception, our Movement has quadrupled its membership and have become an important factor in international politics, contributing positively to the solution of the most acute problem facing the world community of nations. Its achievements have provoked the reaction of the enemies of the principles we are defending. These enemies

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relentlessly pursue their attempts to undermine the unity and cohesion of our Movement and blot the praiseworthy role it is playing in favour of peace, independence, justice, social progress and World Peace. In the face of such attempts there is no other appropriate reply but to strengthen the unity

of the member countries around the principles of the Movement.

It is Cuba's aspiration that the Sixth Summit Conference to be held in Havana, on September 1979, with the participation of all member countries, will constitute both an expression of their will and a proof of the capability of the Movement to keep on playing its outstanding role.

At the beginning of next year we shall have the opportunity to meet again on the occasion of the extraordinary meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau in Mapute, Capital of Mozambique which will examine the serious problem existing in Southern Africa and win express both our solidarity with and our support to the Liberation Movements of the region and to the Front Line States, in their struggle to eradicate, once and for all, colonialism, racism, and the repulsive system of apartheid.

Excellency, it is with great satisfaction that we take note of the fact that the traditionally friendly relations between our two countries are expanding to cover new fields, if this positive fact, bear witness the Programme of Cultural and Educational Cooperation and the Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation which will be signed during our visit.

These two Documents, together with the possibilities of expanding our Trade exchanges, are an expression of our mutual will to have our bilateral relations march along an ever ascending road.

Once again, permit me to thank the Honourable Minister Vajpayee on behalf of of our delegation and on my own behalf, for this new opportunity to be among our dear Indian friends.

Finally, I would like to propose that we raise our glasses - to the struggle and unity of the Movement of the Non-Aligned Countries, to the friendship and expansion of the cooperation between Cuba and India and to the health and continuous success of our friend, the Honourable Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Thank you very much.

CUBA USA INDIA MOZAMBIQUE

Date: Nov 01, 1978

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CUBA

Indo-Cuban Co-operation in Science and Technology

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 19, 1978 on the signing of an agreement between India and Cuba for cooperation in Science and technology:

An agreement for cooperation in the fields of science and technology between India and Cuba was signed here today. Prof. M. G. K. Menon, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology signed the agreement on behalf of the Government of India, and H.E. Dr. Jose Lopez Sanchez, Ambassador of Cuba in India on behalf of the Cuban side. The agreement was signed in the presence of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs and Mr. Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, Foreign Minister of Cuba.

The agreement porvides for cooperation in agricultural sciences with special reference to sugarcane, tobacco and rice breeding and cultivation; solar energy; information sciences and documentation; utilization of bagasse and bioconversion of cellulose; studies on technology transfer; and public health.

India and Cuba had signed a memorandum of understanding in July 1976 when Cuban delegation led by Dr. Zoilo Marinello Vidaurreta, First Vice-President of the State

Committee for Science and Technology visited India.

A number of exchanges of scientists and technologists have already taken place between the two countries. The agreement is expected to strengthen this cooperation through the implementation of the joint research and development projects in the above areas.

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CUBA INDIA

Date: Nov 01, 1978

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CUBA

Indo-Cuban Cultural Exchange Programme

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 20, 1978 on the signing of the first cultural exchange programme with Cuba:

The first cultural exchange programme between India and Cuba was signed here today in the presence of Dr. P. C. Chunder, Minister of Education, Social Welfare and Culture, and H.E. Mr. Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Cuba.

Dr. (Mrs.) Kapila Vatsayayan, Joint Education Adviser in the Department of Culture, and Dr. Jose Lopez Sanchez, Ambassador of Cuba in India, signed the programme.

The programme envisages cooperation between the two countries in the fields of education and culture, sports, radio and television, and film.

Besides exchanging educational and scientific information the two countries will send to each other the reproductions of art objects, publications and general documentation on museums and monuments. Visits of experts will also be arranged to know the cultural life and educational systems of the respective countries.

They will also facilitate and promote the exchange of television reports, news reels and recorded music. Radio programmes reflecting different facets of life and culture of the peoples of the two countries will be exchanged.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Chunder recalled with appreciation the Cuban struggle against colonialism and imperialism. Indian people were fascinated with the way the Cuban leader, Mr. Fidel Castro, led his people to liberation, he said.

He informed the visiting dignitary about the nationwide programme India had launched to eradicate illiteracy and ignorance. This would improve the mental make up of the people which would help them in the improvement of their economic and social status, he felt.

Mr. Peoli highlighted the efforts of the two countries in the non-aligned movement in the field of international relations. The relations between the peoples of India and Cuba would be further strengthened with the signing of the programme, he hoped.

CUBA INDIA USA

Date: Nov 01, 1978

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CUBA

The following is the text of the Indo-Cuban joint Communique issued in New Delhi on November 21, 1978:

At the invitation of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs of India, Mr. Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Cuba, paid an official friendly visit to India from November 18 to 21, 1978.

During his stay in New Delhi, the Cuban Minister was received by the Vice-President of India, Shri B. D. Jatti and by the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai to whom he conveyed greetings from Commander-in-Chief, Mr. Fidel Castro, President of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba. Minister Malmierca also called on the Minister of Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation, Shri Mohan Dharia and the Minister of Education, Social Welfare and Culture, Dr. Pratap Chandra Chunder.

The Minister of External Affairs of India and the Minister of External Relations of Cuba held wide-ranging talks in an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual understanding. They reviewed the friendly ties between Cuba and India and exchanged views on major international issues of common interest, in particular on the Non-aligned Movement.

The two Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the Non-aligned Movement and emphasised the determination of their two Governments to work together to

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preserve the unity, the fundamental principles as well as criteria for admission and to achieve the basic objectives of the Movement. They stressed the importance of the Movement as an independent global factor for the strengthening of solidarity and cooperation of the Non-aligned countries and in their common struggle against imperialism, colonialism, racism, apartheid and all forms of foreign domination. They were confident that the non-aligned movement can continue to make a meaningful contribution towards consolidation of world peace, to the establishment of the New International Economic Order and to mankind's advance towards general and complete disarmament, including nuclear disarmament. Cuba and India were among the founding members of the Nonaligned Movement and the two Ministers expressed their abiding faith in the capacity of the Movement to contribute to solutions to problems faced by the International community. Both sides expressed their conviction that the Extraordinary Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-aligned Movement in Maputo, Mozambique in January 1979 will be an important occasion to emphasise the continuing support of the Movement to the Liberation Movements of Namibia. Zimbabwe and South Africa and to the Front Line States.

The two Foreign Ministers reviewed the preparatory work for the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Nonaligned countries to be held in Havana in September 1979. Both Ministers agreed that it was necessary to make maximum efforts together with other member countries to ensure the success of the Conference. They expressed their belief that the unity and cohesion of the Movement would be strengthened at the Conference.

The Foreign Ministers condemned the decision of the South African Government to proceed unilaterally with the holding of elections in Namibia in contravention of relevent Security Council Resolutions and demanded the immediate and total withdrawal of South Africa from Namibia including the Walvis Bay and the speedy achievement of independence for Namibia.

The two sides expressed their firm support for the people of Zimbabwe in their struggle for independence and expressed themselves in favour of immediate transfer of power to the representatives of the majority in Zimbabwe. They condemned in the strongest terms the recent brutal attacks by the racist regime in Salisbury on Front Line States.

They agreed that solutions for the existing conflicts between African nations should be sought by peaceful means through negotiations in accordance with the Charter of the Organisation of African Unity, the Charter of the United Nations and the Declarations of the Non-aligned Conference.

The two Ministers noted recent developments and moves to resolve the problems in the Middle East and were of the opinion that any lasting and peaceful solutions would have to be within the framework of UN Resolutions. Both sides reiterated the imperative need for the withdrawal of Israel from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the securing of the legitimate national rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their right to establish their own state, as well as the ensuring of the right of all states in the area to independent existence and development.

The two sides discussed the situation in South East Asia and in this connection expressed concern that Indo-China should again be subject to tensions which deflect the peoples of Indo-China from the urgent tasks of reconstruction and development. They were of the view that these tensions should be resolved by peaceful bilateral negotiations without any outside interference.

The two Foreign Ministers noted with regret that no significant progress had been made in the implementation of the UN Declaration on Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and called on all countries to extend their full support and cooperation to the littoral and hinterland states in securing the implementation of the UN Declaration.

The Minister of External Affairs of India informed the Minister for External Relations of Cuba the steps taken by his Government to foster good neighbourly relations with other States in South Asia. The Minister for External Relations of Cuba welcomed the progress towards peace, stability and friendly cooperation in the region and expressed the view that the con-

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tenuously improving relations would accelerate the social and economic development of the region as a whole.

The Ministers expressed their support to the efforts of the States of Latin America aimed at the consolidation and defence of their sovereignty and the recovery of their wealth and natural resources. They expressed the hope that the disputes between Latin American countries would be resolved by peaceful bilateral negotiations.

Both parties expressed their support for all the relevant decisions of the non-aligned Conferences, subscribed to by both countries without reservation, with regard to current problems faced by the member countries of the movement and the oppressed peoples.

The two Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the outcome of the talks held during the visit which showed considerable identity of views on many international issues and agreed to encourage further development of their bilateral relations particularly in the fields of cultural exchanges, scientific and technical collaboration and in bilateral trade. They expressed the hope that the Agreement on cooperation in Science and Technology between the two Governments signed on November 19, 1978 would result in fruitful exchange of information and technology to the mutual advantage of the two countries. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs of India thanked Mr. Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Cuba for his invitation to visit Cuba and accepted it with pleasure.

CUBA INDIA MOZAMBIQUE NAMIBIA SOUTH AFRICA ZIMBABWE ISRAEL USA CHINA

Date: Nov 01, 1978

Volume No

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INDONESIA

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

The following is the text of the speech by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, at a dinner held by him in honour of His Excellency Dr. Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, in New Delhi on November 14, 1978:

I am indeed happy to welcome you once again in our midst in fulfilment of the promise you made to us when you came here last. Not all of us can always keep the engagements we make. Obviously, having been a University Don, Your Excellency can plan your engagements in advance with a far greater degree of precision than I can, having graduated from the rough and tumble of political life! This institution of annual bilateral talks between our two countries is of immense importance to us. It not only permits us to exchange views on the international and regional problems, but to review the direction, the content and the potential of our bilateral ties.

Of course, India and Indonesia have a constant dialogue - we ourselves have met and exchanged views on several occasions at various levels and forums since we both became Foreign Ministers. Since the days of Bandung, we have found a common language of peace and cooperation and a common approach towards the world of which we are a part. We understand each other, and derive inspiration and the courage from each other to act together in the comity of nations to make the world a better and happier place to live in.

Excellency, I have no desire to repeat

customary cliches on this occasion. The fact remains, however, that India and Indonesia, the two largest countries in Asia next to China, have no bilateral problems and have nothing but sentiments of friendship and good wishes for each other. To a historian or to a student of world cultures, this should cause no surprise. In our long history, our peoples have passed through many trials and tribu-

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lations, and faced many vicissitudes. Under alien influence we may have drifted apart an lost touch with each other at times. Our common cultural roots are, however, a living bond even today. They find expression in our way of life, in our national ethos and in our response and reaction to the problems we encounter.

COMMON ENDEAVOUR

Excellency, both our peoples are today engaged in a great common endeavour. This endeavour is no less and no more than building a life of dignity for our masses, to create a society, free from fear, want, discrimination and exploitation. But we see our struggle as part of a historic movement. We see it as part of a grand design to change the existing order to re-structure relations among nations, and to harness science and technology for the advancement of all mankind. The world is no longer prepared to have islands of affluence surrounded by a dark sea of human misery.

Our national struggle and our foreign policy are, therefore, two dimensions of the same process of history. In both, India and Indonesia are prepared to share each other's experience. This spirit of cooperation and collaboration characterises the relations between our Governments. On both the fronts, we have a long way to go and we shall march shoulder to shoulder.

As founder members of the Non-aligned Movement we share a special responsibility. We shall work together for an environment of peace in our neighbourhood and in the whole world.

It is customary to speak of the heterogeneity of Asia. Asia is indeed a rich tapestry of religions, of culture, of languages and of races. We are all conscious of being Asians and proud of our great heritage. I see and feel a new stirring through Asia. Valuable experiments in good neighbourly cooperation, in sub-regional of regional economic integration, are all the visible dynamics or a new stage in our development. This is not contradictory to the spirit of either nationalism or internationalism. We in Asia have always thought of man as one family and have never lost sight of inter-dependence of nations in a fast shrinking world. I have no doubt that an experiment like the ASEAN will in the long run positively contribute to the peace, stability and progress of South-East Asia. It will also assist in the emergence of an Asian personality, and to the larger goal of peace and justice in human society.

Excellency, our talks have been very valuable to our country and to me personally. I am certain that your visit would give an impetus to our cooperation and open new vistas for exchange of experience. It will help us in forging a common strategy for fulfilling the expectations of our peoples and the hopes of mankind for a world free from arms race and economic inequalities. I look forward to the pleasure of meeting you again in the near future. I do hope that your visit this time, brief as it is, has left with you an abiding impression of the warm friendship and admiration we in India have for your people.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I request you to join me in a toast to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Indonesia; to the health and wellbeing of our distinguished guest this evening, His Excellency Prof. Dr. Machtar Kusumaatmadja; to the happiness of the people of Indonesia; and to ever lasting and growing friendship between our countries.

INDONESIA USA INDIA CHINA

Date: Nov 01, 1978

Volume No

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INDONESIA

Joint Communique

The following is the text of the India-Indonesia joint communique issued in New Delhi on November 16, 1978:

At the invitation of His Excellency Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister of External Affairs of India, His Excellency Dr. Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Indonesia, visited India from November 14 to 16, 1978, for the Annual Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of the two countries.

During his stay in Delhi, the Indonesian Foreign Minister called on the President of

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India, and the Minister of Commerce, Shri Mohan Dharia. The Foreign Minister of Indonesia and his delegation also visited Agra.

In the Talks the Indonesian Foreign
Minister was assisted by His Excellency ViceAdmiral Syamsul Bahri, Ambassador of Indonesia to India and other senior officials. The
Minister of External Affairs of India was
assisted by Shri Jagat Mehta, Foreign Secretary, and other senior officials of the
Government of India. The Talks were held
in the traditional atmosphere of friendship,
cordiality and understanding which characterise relations between the two countries
and brought out a general similarity of views
and perceptions in their foreign policies and
in their attitude on important international
questions.

The two Foreign Ministers recalled with pleasure the various opportunities they had had for exchange of views on bilateral, regional and international matters since they took office and felt that they had contributed considerably to mutual understanding.

The two Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the policy of Non-alignment and emphasised the determination of their governments to work together for the preservation of the authentic character and genuine principles of the Non-aligned Movement as an independent global factor for the strengthening of solidarity, unity of action and cooperation of the Non-aligned countries and for the success of the ensuing Non-Aligned Summit in the light of the Declaration adopted at the Belgrade Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Non-Aligned Countries in August 1978. They were confident that the Non-aligned Movement can continue to make meaningful contribution towards consolidation of world peace, to the elimination of last vestiges of colonialism and racism, and to the construction of the new international economic order as well as to mankind's advance towards general and complete disarmament.

The two Foreign Ministers agreed on the continuing importance and relevance of the United Nations Organisation as a forum for reaching international consensus on important issues confronting mankind today, and reiterated their support and adherence to the purpose and principles of the United Nations Charter.

The two Foreign Ministers exchanged views on international economic situation. They noted with concern the aggravation of unfavourable trends in the world economy, compounded by a definite lack of progress in the negotiations on major issues relating to structural changes in international economic order. The Foreign Ministers reiterated their unrelenting commitment to the implementation of the New International Economic Order and reaffirmed their agreement on pursuing this objective through constructive dialogue and negotiations in the appropriate fora of the U.N. system.

The two Foreign Ministers took note of recent developments in the Middle East and of the efforts of the States concerned towards lasting peace in the region. They felt that a just and durable solution could only be achieved in accordance with the U.N. Resolutions through complete withdrawal by Israel from all occupied Arab territories, recognition of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people and of the right of all States in the region to live in peace within recognised borders. The two Foreign Ministers called upon the international community to implement fully the U.N. Resolutions concerning the restoration of peace and stability to the Middle East.

The two Foreign Ministers expressed their deep concern at the lack of progress towards majority rule in Zimbabwe and towards complete and early independence in Namibia, which could have disastrous consequences. They reiterated their firm support to the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia in their struggle for national independence and to the people of South Africa in their fight against racism and apartheid.

The two Foreign Ministers noted with regret that no significant progress had been made in the implementation of U.N. Declaration on Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and called on all great powers and major maritime users of the Indian Ocean to extend their full support and cooperation to the littoral and hinterland states in implementing the U.N. Resolutions. They expressed the hope that the talks between the U.S.A. and the USSR on mutual arms limitation would be resumed and lead to positive results, which would pave the way towards progressive reduction and final elimination of all

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manifestations of foreign military presence from the Indian Ocean.

The Foreign Minister of Indonesia informed the Minister of External Affairs of India of the current situation in South-East Asia, with particular reference to the progress made by the ASEAN, and also the steps taken by the States in the region towards normalisation of relations among them. He also informed the External Affairs Minister of India of the decision by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers authorising the Secretary-General of the ASEAN Secretariat to hold exploratory talks with the Government of India on the modalities for a relationship of cooperation between the ASEAN and India.

The Minister of External Affairs of India welcomed ASEAN's progress and its continuing commitment to the establishment of a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality in South-East Asia and expressed the confidence that cooperation between India and the ASEAN will add a new dimension to India's relationship with the member-States.

The two Foreign Ministers expressed the hope that the unfortunate conflict between Vietnam and Kampuchea would be resolved peacefully through bilateral negotiations without foreign interference, so that their peoples could undertake more vigorously the task of national reconstruction.

The Minister of External Affairs of India informed the Foreign Minister of Indonesia of the steps taken by his Government to foster good neighbourly relations with other States in South Asia. The Foreign Minister of Indonesia welcomed the progress towards peace, stability and friendly cooperation in the region and expressed the view that the continuously improving relations would accelerate the social and economic development of the region as a whole.

The two Foreign Ministers noted with satisfaction the development of bilateral relations since the last Talks, particularly in the field of economic and technological cooperation. Both felt that such cooperation could be deepened and broadened in various directions, in particular in the fields of agriculture, forestry and science and technology. They took note of the progress made in the continuing negotiations between the authorities concerned in the two countries for an Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of

Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy. They agreed that their Talks had contributed to a deeper understanding and better appreciation of each other's interests and had laid the foundation for closer cooperation between them bilaterally as well as in international forums.

The Foreign Minister of Indonesia expressed his deep appreciation of the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to him and to the members of his Delegation during his visit to India. He extended an invitation to the Minister of External Affairs of India to visit Indonesia for the next round of Talks. The invitation was gratefully accepted.

INDONESIA INDIA USA YUGOSLAVIA ISRAEL ZIMBABWE NAMIBIA SOUTH AFRICA MALI VIETNAM

Date: Nov 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

ITALY

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

The following is the text of the speech by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, at a dinner held by hint in honour of His Excellency Mr. Arnaldo Forlani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Italy, in New Delhi on November 24, 1978:

His Excellency Mr. Arnaldo Forlani, Madame Forlani, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is with great pleasure that we receive you here tonight. This is particularly so since it is almost 20 years that a Foreign Minister from Italy has visited India.

Your Excellency, we welcome you as the representative of a country with an ancient as well as modern civilisation of genuine in-

ternational significance. The renaissance in Italy ushered in the modern era in Europe.

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Never perhaps in so small an area of the world and in so short a span of time have art, literature and science experienced so great a flowering. This magnificent and vital kindling of the human spirit in the principalities of Italy, joined with the Greek and Roman streams to make up European culture and civilization as we know it today. Michaelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci, together with Roman Law, which is the foundation of many legal systems, represent the quintessence of European civilization.

ANCIENT LAND

Your Excellency, you have come to an ancient land where too an unbroken civilisation has flourished continuously for 40000 years, and which has also made its contribution to the learning and wisdom of mankind. In our country we have long known and admired the scintillating works of the Italian masters, and we know that Italian scholars have likewise studied our Vedic texts and ancient scriptures. Only recently it was our pleasant duty to acknowledge the outstanding work of Prof. Tucci and confer on him the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding.

Your Excellency, while both our countries can be proud of a glorious past, we must live in the present and prepare for the future. Since the Second World War, Italy had made remarkable economic progress and is an important member of the European Economic Community. It is our confident hope that your economic recovery will be sustained. We together with the rest of the world, learnt with shock and anguish of the dastardly assassination of the respected statesman Signor Aldo Moro. We salute his courage and pay tribute to his memory. I learn that the drive your Government has mounted to apprehend those responsible for the killing is meeting with success.

Since independence we too have had to face many challenges, which in substantial measure, we have overcome. Drawing upon the ancient traditions of independent panchayats, our long tradition of tolerance, and the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, we established firmly parliamentary democracy in our country. With outstanding and dedicated leadership we experienced a period of progress in which firm foundations for economic growth were laid. The world economic crisis of which the oil crisis was an important aspect, though by no means the only factor, did indeed affect us adversely, as it did other developing countries also.

DEEP COMMITMENT

Your Excellency, both our countries share a deep commitment to democratic Unfortunately, in our country in the ideals, recent past there was an interregnum, when the institutions of democracy were suppressed. There was a chorus of voices in our country and in some Western countries, that democracy is a luxury for which indigent societies are not fit, since their first concern must be bread to the people; and that somehow both bread and freedom were imcompatible ideals for the poor. As you are aware, the people of India gave a categorical demonstration of their commitment to both bread and liberty. Through, a massive assertion of the popular will by means of the ballot box,. they restored democracy and individual freedom to our country.

In the past one and half years, we have achieved our first objective of restoring the dignity and freedom of the individual, and free functioning of Parliament and judicial institutions. On the economic front, there has been significant re-orientation of our strategy. We have laid new emphasis on the rural sector, and without constraining the further development of heavy industry, we are paying greater attention to agriculture and small-scale industry. We share with Italy the distinction of being among the world's ten largest industrialised nations. We believe, however, that capital-intensive industries employing labour-saving machinery

and technology is not the answer to our problems. The poverty of our people can be alleviated only through policies which would help generate greater purchasing power among the masses who live below the poverty line, even by our standards. This can be attained only by generating more employment, and we have accordingly altered our economic priorities.

POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT

Your Excellency, we adhere firmly to the policy of non-alignment. We are one of the founders of non-aligned movement and are steadfast to its basic principles. We seek friendship with all; we bear ill-will towards

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none. We have resolved a number of outstanding bilateral issues with our neighbours, of which the Agreement on Farakka with Bangladesh, the Salal Dam Project with Pakistan and the conclusion of separate treaties for trade and transit with Nepal are among the most significant. We shall zealously continue our efforts to seek solutions to all such issues which yet remain and further extend areas of mutually beneficial cooperation. I would like to emphasise that while we seek new friends, our efforts to strengthen existing ties are unflagging. We hope to make new friends, we are determined to retain old ones.

Your Excellency, there are no problems between our two countries. I hope that we can increase trade in both directions, exchange technical know-how, and collaborate in helping third countries that may need our assistance. Your country though affluent by world standards knows and understands the problems of developing countries. We know that you are well aware of the gap between the islands of affluence of the North, and the dark ocean of poverty and human misery of the South. We are confident that you will bring your goodwill and understanding to bear on the establishment of a more fair and equitable distribution between the developed and developing countries. You are an important member of the European Economic Community which is our major trading partner, and we look to you as to its members to adopt an enlightened policy in your trade relations with us.

Your Excellency, while it our regret that you have come to our country for so short a while, we thank you for sparing the time to visit us, and hope that you will enjoy your stay here. Your visit, I am confident, will lead to greater understanding and the unfolding of new vistas of cooperation between our two countries.

In conclusion, I would like to request you, ladies and gentlemen to raise your glasses to Ms Excellency Mr. Allessandro Pertini, President of Italy; to the health of Ms Excellency the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Italy and Madame Forlani: and to the enduring friendship between India and Italy.

ITALY INDIA USA OMAN BANGLADESH PAKISTAN NEPAL

Date: Nov 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

TANZANIA

Shri Vajpayee's Speech at Dinner in Honour of Minister of Planning and Finance of Tanzania

The following is the text of the speech by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee at a dinner hosted by him in New Delhi on November 28, 1978 in honour of the visiting Minister of Planning and Finance, Tanzania, and Co-chairman of the Indo-Tanzanian Joint Commission:

Your Excellency, esteemed High Commissioner of Tanzania, distinguished Tanzanian guests and friends, first of all, let me say how happy I am in having you amidst us this evening. I vividly recall my visit to

your beautiful country last year and have pleasant memories of my stay there and of the Second Session of our Joint Commission.

This visit had enabled me to witness at first hand your achievements in building a prosperous nation and dynamic society. I also experienced intensely the warm friendship of your people for the Indian people, which I trust you will find, is reciprocated in full measure here for the people of Tanzania.

Your Excellency, I hope that your visit to India would be enjoyable and fruitful. We have had some detailed discussions this mornning and I am sure that the present session of the Joint Commission would constitute yet another important milestone in strengthening and expanding the existing many-

343 faceted cooperation between our two countries.

Your Excellency, I believe that we are adopting the right approach in setting our deliberations in the context of the evolving economic environment in our respective countries and the cross-currents of the international economic situation. We welcome your proposal that the Indian participation in the current Third Five Year Plan of Tanzania should be expanded, and we hope that the study of the experts, about which we agreed this morning, will help in identifying new avenues of cooperation. Both sides have also agreed to enlarge further the areas of technical cooperation on bilateral basis as well as through schemes involving participation and cooperation with international organisations and aid sources.

Excellency, we are on threshold of the Third Development Decade. Both our two countries are engaged in the momentous task of economic and social development of our people. This calls for maximum efforts aimed at national self-reliance as well as collective self-reliance among developing countries. Indeed the latter together with global interdependence, constitutes the twin pillars on which the International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade must

be built. Indo-Tanzanian cooperation is in full accord with these principles and ideals, and is a shining example of how developing countries can cooperate together.

May I now request all those present here to raise their glasses and join me in proposing a toast to the health of His Excellency W. Edwin Isaac Mbilievl Mtei, Minister oof Planning and Finance, to the health of his colleagues, and to the ever-growing friendship between our two countries.

TANZANIA INDIA USA

Date: Nov 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

UNITED NATIONS

Shri L. K. Advani's Address to the 20th General Conference of UNESCO

The following is the text of the address by the leader of the Indian delegation, Shri L. K. Advani, Minister of Information and Broadcasting to the 20th general conference of UNESCO in Paris on November 17, 1978:

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, it is my privilege to address you on behalf of a country which, from the very inception of UNESCO, has ardently cherished this great institution's ideals. We have always felt that UNESCO has a great contribution to make towards transforming our planet into a more rational, more humane and more civilised place.

My colleague the Education Minister of India spoke at the beginning of this session and gave some idea to you of the determination of the present Government to deal with the numerous challenges that confront us in the fields of education, science and

culture. India may baffle an outside observer because of its diversity and its refusal, since the beginning of recorded history, to be cast in a uniform mould. In our country unity prevails amidst diversity and contradictions co-exist. Although we have continuous educational traditional of almost thirty centuries, we face the problem of massive illiteracy. Even though we were one of the early crucibles of science, our villages are crying out for the use of science for removing the stigma of poverty. But the very magnitude of the tasks before us acts as a challenge. Our culture through the centuries has taught inclusiveness, compassion and resilience and has shown amazing powers of persistence. Mahatma Gandhi and the leaders of our freedom movement recaptured the spirit of the Vedic Indians who prayed for freedom from fear, and thus they built within us the strength to fight a modern empire of no mean might. Once again in the last couple of years our people gave an electrifying ex-

344 pression to their spirit of freedom and proved their capacity to grapple with social and economic problems.

EDUCATION

In the field of education we have embarked on a plan to spread literacy and social awareness to a hundred million of our people in ten years. You can imagine the gigantic nature of the task being undertaken. In a country of India's size and diversity where every problem gets magnified a thousandfold, every effort to grapple with it, however extensive, is a drop in the ocean. in the realm of science, our emphasis is on developing technologies that will be relevant to our rural people and will give them the benefits of modern science without the risk of alienation in the process. We do not believe that modernity need necessarily mean an exodus from villages to towns. We want to retain the essence of our culture, which has shown man how to live in harmony with Nature.

MEDIA

In the field of the media, with which I am primarily concerned, our approach is that all communication should be used for a broadening and deepening of understanding and not for the aggravation of disputes and disparities.

India has 13,524 newspapers and periodicals. All India Radio broadcasts from 84 stations in 16 languages and 136 dialects in its domestic services and 16 foreign languages in its external services. Our film industry last year produced 557 feature films. Our television, which is still in a stage of initial growth, has viewers not only around eight major cities but in many remote rural tracts. Communication experts of many countries are familiar with the Satellite Instructional Television Experiment that we undertook in 1975-76 and which is being continued with the help of a chain of terrestrial stations. Our scientists are at present constructing a satellite which, we hope, will be in orbit either in 1980 or 1981, and which will vastly enlarge the coverage of our television.

It is not by their size that our media are to be judged but by the spirit that animates them. For a hundred years our newspapers have fought for freedom. They made a notable contribution to our struggle for national independence. They have been torch-bearers of social regeneration and have fought relentlessly against encrusted customs and superstitions. Not long ago, in my own country an attempt was made to clip the wings of the press. Fortunately that attempt was short-lived and was repudiated by our nation. Today in India there is no curb whatever on the gathering and dissemination of news and the articulation of opinions.

Each nation has a right to choose its pattern of government and shape such institutions as, in its view, will best serve its people. As firm believers in the sovereign right of people, we do not seek to traduce other systems. All we say is that the forms we have chosen are most suitable for our own objectives and conditions. Free flow of news and views within the country, we feel, will strengthen our national fibre and the form

of government we have adopted, namely parliamentary democracy. So we have removed all formal and informal restrictions on press freedom. If such freedom is sometimes misused, we are sure that the professional conscience of the press will itself remedy the ills. Going a step further, we have drawn up plans to make radio and TV autonomous so that these media can move closer to the people untrammelled by official guidance or management.

REACH OF PRESS

The reach of the press in India is unfortunately limited by the problem of illiteracy. But radio is capable of leaping over this barrier. Radio has made a conscious effort to give objective news to the people in their own language and dialect. In addition, it offers them a large array of background information which enables them to judge correctly and make their choice on public affairs. It also carries information that will be useful to them in their avocations and careers. Our farm programmes are known to have played a vital role in making people aware of new farming techniques and of the availability of inputs like seed, fertiliser, tools and credit. Radio and TV have moreover played a notable part in conserving and revitalising our folk art forms. Another achievement of radio (and this is true equally of cinema) is to have fostered cultural mobility and evolved a coutrywide audience for culture and information. It could be confidently asserted that the media in India truly

345 serve the masses even though they are not carriers of a mass culture.

FLOW OF NEWS

We favour free and ample flow of news within the country so as to reinforce our sense of national solidarity and to strengthen the forces of harmony that will prevail over the narrow pulls of region, religion, caste and class. It is for the same reason that we favour a balanced flow of information - quantitatively and qualitatively - amongst nations. It is essentially against this back-

ground that we welcome the concept behind the draft declaration placed on the agenda of this conference. The United Nations embodies mankind's determination to build a new political order in which wars no longer have a place and which will help nations to overcome and sublimate their suspicions. jealousies and aggressive tendencies. The agencies of the U.N., like F.A.O., W.H.O. and UNESCO, have been fostering world-wide realisation that mankind is but one family (-Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, as our ancient sages said). The world is not a collection of islands. Whatever afflicts one part is bound to affect another. Various international forums and conferences in the last 30 or 35 years have envisaged new forms of economic co-operation - between rich and poor, between developed and developing - between East and West, between North and South, and among the developing countries themselves - culminating in the New International Economic Order. The world has achieved an insight into the utilisation of resources which will now ensure that no man or woman or child need be hungry or ill-clad or unattended during illness. No longer need there be Lazaruses at the doorstep. I should like to think that an International Information Order would be a natural extension of these various efforts for bringing nations nearer to one another so that they work together for the eradication of war and want, ignorance and prejudice.

RECIPROCTTY OF INFORMATION

I do not have to stress before this august assembly what is widely felt in the developing countries about the lack of balance and reciprocity in the flow of information. It is wrong to suggest that this feeling stems from authoritarian tendencies. The temptation to amass and use absolute power is not confined to any one geographical or cultural entity.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, the great Liberal and Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, once wrote that "freedom of speech is freedom for the thought we hate." There is no freedom in allowing expression of palatable or acceptable views. I do not know how many protagonists of the freedom of the

press in different parts of the world live up to this maxim. I find the championship of human rights is often so strident that it sounds more like a battle cry than a plea for tolerance and mutual accommodation. To attempt to compel persons to believe in and live as we do and what we regard to be the best for all is not a feature of democracy. In fact, it has been a perpetual source of tension and strife in the world. Evangelism in politics, business or religion will have to be tempered with the need to live in a disparate world.

Our great leader, Mahatma Gandhi, whom we revere as the father of our nation, said "I do not want my house to be walledin on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the culture of all lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feel by any...." Just as we want the cultures of all lands to grow and interact with each other as freely as possible, so are we determined not to be blown off our feet by any. That is the crux of our approach. If in the name of human rights and freedom the vast technological and material resources of the developed world are to be pressed into service to dilute and overcome our intrinsic sense of values and to reduce us into automatons in our homes, to destroy our priorities which are the products of our experience we have to stand up and resist. To many of us who have had a long and bitter taste of political domination and economic exploitation by outsiders it is nothing short of cultural invasion.

IMMENSE IMPACT

Our philosopher statesman and former President, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, who had the honour of being the first President from Asia of this great Organisation, had drawn attention to the immense impact of mass media on the lives of people. That was in his presidential address to the 8th session of UNESCO General Conference at Montevideo. What he had then said can be recalled appropriately in the context of the unfortunate and even artificial controversy

raging about the draft declaration before this conference. He had said "Young minds are exposed to surface objectivity, to slogans and catch words, to the acceptance and elaboration of the obvious. We all cat, think. hear and read substantially the same thing. We develop stereotyped attitudes of minds." It is an irony that such a consummation is brought about in the name of liberal values and freedom of expression. The world which was once divided by oceans and continents is now being rent asunder by suspicions and misunderstanding born of misinformation.

I am not trying to deny or belittle the contribution of serious and fair-minded writers and journalists towards understanding the problems of the developing countries and interpreting their achievements in perspective. The national liberation struggles in Asia and Africa have received most valuable support from a large number of publicists belonging to the developed countries. There have been also among them several crusaders against racialism and colour prejudice. I would like to recall with gratitude the support extended to us by liberal minded writers and thinkers in our travails in India during the traumatic period we went through twenty months back. I am conscious of all this but what I am drawing attention to is the basic differences in the definition of news values. In our countries the mass media are essential means to project trends and processes of development - rather than just events - and to that extent we have a set of news values appropriate to our conditions. In contrast in most advanced countries press attention is focussed upon the bizarre, the sensational and the relatively trivial. It is no doubt true that the newspaper reading public in our countries is relatively an elite group but its understanding, sympathy and support are crucial for the development efforts which are undertaken. If they become a part of western societies - little islands of imported values in a vast ocean of underdevelopment and illiteracy - the task becomes more arduous.

This divergence in news values is even more relevant to the global imbalance in the flow of information which I have already referred to. In the developed countries decisions regarding what to communicate and how to communicate are based largely on commercial criteria, though the profit motive is attuned to the ideals of free speech and free flow of information. Such commercial criteria generally have little relevance to the conditions obtaining in most of the developing countries. In many of our countries there is no alternative to State support to help develop the mass media. If the State does not intervene the vacuum remains unfilled except by agencies from the developed world. So the prejudice against the State pormoting the infrastructure for the mass media, like distrust of the role of the public sector in the industrialisation of our economies, goes against our interests. In most advanced countries the media is supposed to play an adversary role vis-a-vis the State. In some other countries it is expected to be an unquestioning ally; in India, we would like the media to play a composite role, of an adversary as well as an ally, of critical co-operation. I should not like the Draft Declaration to become an instrument that in any way adds to the strength of intolerant regimes to curb the flow of fair and objective news. I take it that its purpose is to urge all media and their managers to make an effort to enlarge the area of objective and sympathetic understanding and reduce prejudices of all kinds. It is a plea to their professional integrity.

PRESS FREEDOM

I recounted at the outset how the Government of India stands committed to unrestricted freedom for the press. Freedom, it is said, includes the freedom to go wrong. But the freedom of my conception is a form of intellectual and moral energy which enhances the spirit of responsibility. In true freedom the restraint comes from within and is not imposed by any external authority. Also the concept of freedom of the press in our conditions is more an out-growth of the virtue of articulation of truth than a mere constitutional right. One of our ancient

texts, Chandogya Upanishad, says "If there were no speech, neither right nor wrong would be known, neither the true nor the false, neither the good nor the bad, neither the pleasant nor the unpleasant. Speech makes us understand all this".

I have been a journalist who has jealously prized editorial freedom. I am today Minister in a government which is pledged to upholding fundamental personal freedoms. Freedom of worship and freedom of expres-

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sion and association are an article of faith with us, apart from being enshrined in our Constitution. Within our country we know that if the poor man's freedom is to be real, he must be strengthened to withstand pressures from the dominant sections. Freedom implies equality. Undue concentration of power and advantage in a few hands would make a mockery of freedom. That is why our endeavour in India - is to ensure that authority, political or economic, is shared among as large a number of people as possible - through wholly peaceful means. In the world, too, there must be greater equality. Freer and more balanced two-way flow of objective information, I should believe, is indispensable for greater understanding and equality among nations. Rabindranath Tagore, the great poet of our nation, saw the vision of a world that is not broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls. He prayed: "Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high, where knowledge is free, where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls, where words come out from the depth of truth, where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection, where the clear freedom of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit, where the mind is led forward by thee into ever widening thought and action, into that heaven of stream, my father, let my country awake". That should indeed be the aim of our exertions in UNESCO.

Date: Nov 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Sub-Commission on Science and Technology

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on November 11, 1978 on the meeting of Indo-U.S. subcommission on science and technology:

The two-day meeting of the Indo-US Sub-Commission on Science and Technology, which concluded here yesterday, has recommended allocation of two million dollars US aid to projects for integrated rural development. These projects cover a wide area of activities which includes decentralised rural energy systems, operational research on primary health care, wild life conservation and water shed management, Satellite oceanography and electronics. The Sub-Commission reviewed the priorities established at the previous metings and indicated specific projects which could be developed through mutual consultation. The Sub-Commission suggested newer areas of collaboration in photo-synthesis, indigenous system of medicines, low gradecoal gasification, characterisation of surface science and earthquake engineering. The Sub-Commission recommended further cooperation in developing information sciences leading to the establishment of a pilot project in India for dissemination of information especially related to the rural sector.

Both sides felt that the existing procedures should be streamlined to expedite the implementation of cooperative research projects recommended by the Sub-Commission. The Sub-Commission recommended that the

meetings of experts from both the countries through workshops and seminars be continued as these have helped in formulating detailed project proposals.

In the field of agriculture the Sub-Commission recommended that highest priority be given to the exchange of information between Indian and US scientists. Areas of research in management and utilisation of agricultural wastes, screening evaluation and breeding of plants resistant to diseases, integrated pest control, soil resource inventory, water shed management, forestry and wild-life conservation were identified.

The Sub-Commission stressed the need to develop renewable sources of energy. It recommended that the earlier proposals on

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solar energy for an Integrated Energy System for rural areas utilising solar electric thermal systems, photovoltaic systems, refrigeration system and biogas and for solar crop dryers be given top priority and works be expedited on these.

The working-group on energy agreed to proceed with the exchange of experts on coal technologies, which will cover fluidised bed-combustion, coal gasification and hot gas clean-up systems.

HEALTH SCIENCES

With regards to medical and health sciences the Sub-Commission reiterated the priority given to research on communicable diseases, health care, fertility, regulation, nutritional problems and rehabilitation of physically handicapped, by the previous Sub-Commission. In health care, the group took note of the progress on on-going studies with school teachers as change agents in villages. For the effective implementation of EPI programmes the development of simple and useful health information system and the introduction of management techniques in the delivery of primary health care in peripheral areas, the collaborative studies on involvement of medical colleges were suggested.

The U.S. side was requested to explore the possibility of collaborative programme on the pharmacological aspects of beneficial and traditional drugs. Collaborative studies were suggested on diarrhoeal diseases, tuberculosis and rheumatic heart diseases. It was decided to go in for greater collaboration in Malaria, filariasis and leprosy.

The working-group on the subject suggested exploration of other linkages such as exchange of scientific information and mutual visits of scientists in addition to linkages established through P.L. 480 assistance.

In the field of materials and electronics, it was agreed that the projects decided on at earlier meetings of the Sub-Commission should be finalised and launched on priority basis. These are on characterisation of electronic materials, reliability evaluation of active and passive electronic materials and electronic standards and precision electromagnetic measurements. In the field of materials, areas of anorphous materials, rare earth materials, surface science and technology, materials for energy sector are some of the areas identified for collaborative work by the Sub-Commission.

The Sub-Commission took note of the progress of work in the field of environmental pollution and remote sensing. It identified new areas for collaboration which include flood mitigation, using non-conventional approaches, atmospheric sciences and mineral resources evaluation study and geoseismological problems, the global zone problem remote sensing and environment and ecology.

INFORMATION SCIENCES

The working-group on information sciences recommended inter-action between U.S. and Indian Information Scientists in the areas of distributed data base management, computer communication, machine translation, fascimile transmission and audio visual aides to information dissemination. Collection and organisation of information about on-going research, research and development statistics were other areas identified

for collaboration.

This was the fourth meeting of the Sub-Commission since its inception in January, 1975. Prof. M. G. K. Menon, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, served as an Indian Co-Chairman and Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering, Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs served as US Co-Chairman. The next meeting will be held in Washington next year.

USA INDIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Nov 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Economic and Commercial Sub-Commission

The following is the text of a joint communique issued in New Delhi on the India-United States Economic and commercial Sub-Commission held on November 16-17, 1978:

The Economic and Commercial Subcommission of the India-US Joint Commission held its fourth meeting in New Delhi on November 16 and 17, 1978.

The meetings were chaired by Dr. Manmohan Singh, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Govern-

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ment of India, and Mr. Richard N. Cooper, Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, US Department of State.

The Subcommission discussed a wide range of multilateral and bilateral economic,

trade and investment issues. Both sides noted the continuing development of favourable relations between India and the US during the past year. It was agreed that the Subcommission had an important role to play in discussing problems of mutual interest and in focussing attention on these issues.

The Sub-commission reviewed recent developments in the Indian and US economies. The Indian side pointed out the greatly improved performance of the Indian economy during fiscal year 1977-78, particularly the 12 per cent growth in agricultural production and the maintenance of comparative price stability. The Indian delegation explained the strategy of the draft Five Year Plan (1978-83) in emphasising agriculture, rural development and employment creation. The US warmly supported these goals.

The US side explained that the recovery of the US economy was continuing, although the rate of growth was expected to slow down to 3-3.5 per cent in 1979. Recent measures to bring down the rate of inflation, to strengthen the position of the US dollar on international markets, and to limit petroleum imports should begin to have a beneficial impact in 1979. Both sides expressed the hope that the international economic environment will be relatively favourable in the coming year.

The Sub-commission noted the growing bilateral trade between India and the US that may reach around \$ 2 billion in 1978. The US side explained that India has taken advantage of the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) and that this process should continue. The Indian side requested that the US consider suggestions for improving the GSP.

TRADE PRACTICES

Both sides discussed various trade practice of the two countries. The subcommission was happy to note that the US has consistently resisted pressures to impose quotas or other trade barriers on a wide variety of goods. India hoped that the US would continue its policy to establish and maintain an

open and liberal trading environment. Both sides welcomed the successful conclusion of the bilateral textile consultations in Septem. ber 1978 and hoped for smoother implementation of the Textile Agreement in the comingyear.

The Indian side explained that their liberalised import policy in 1978-79 was designed to improve growth investment and efficiency in various economic sectors. The U.S. welcomed these liberalization measures: and hoped that this process would continue. The U.S. side said that the Indian market now presents good opportunities for U.S. exporters in a large number of areas. The-Indian delegation noted that India is now exporting to the U.S. a diversified range of products and hoped that Indian efforts to, increase exports would continue to receive an encouraging response in the U.S.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT POLICY

The Indian side explained that their foreign investment policy is designed to encourage the transfer of sophisticated technology and the production of critically needed goods and exports. The Subcommission noted that all 60 non-pharmaceutical U.S. firms subject to dilution of investment provision of the Foreign Exchange Regulations Act, have reached agreement with the Government of India on percentage of shareholdings and method of dilution. The U.S. side said it understood the reasons for India's foreign investment policy. The U.S., however, stressed the anxiety of U.S. drug firms regarding provisions of the Inidan drug policy in March, 1978 and hoped that this policy would be administered with fairness and flexibility in order to assure the continued contribution of these firms to India's economic development. The Indian side clarified that the broad objectives of the new drug policy are to emphasise self-reliance in drug technology including for this purpose, induction of upto date and sophisticated technology in this field, to reduce the price of drugs so as to make them available to the great majority of the people, and to develop R&D efforts which had hithertofore to a significant degree been lacking. Within these

broad guidelines, it was the desire and intention of the Government of India to ensure that the new policy was administered in a fair and equitable manner.

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The Subcommission welcomed the bilateral Tropical Products Agreement reached in July 1978 as part of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MM). Both sides hoped for a successful conclusion of the MTN by the end of December 1978, recognizing that a substantial lowering of tariff and non-tariff barriers would not only dampen protectionist pressures but also result in more rapidly growing international trade that is beneficial to all countries. They also agreed on the need for close consultations in the final stages of the negotiations.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The two sides discussed the prospects for the adoption of a new International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade. They agreed that a strategy which had broad-based support within the international community could have a positive impact in directing the efforts of governments and international agencies towards beneficial economic and social goals. Both delegations favoured an increased flow of resources from multilateral and bilateral aid donors to the developing world, as well as a strengthened role for the multilateral financial institutions, including the regional banks.

The delegations discussed the Common Fund and individual commodity agreements. They indicated their interest in reaching individual commodity agreements which are economically feasible and which benefit both producer and consumer countries. Their approaches to the question of the "second window" were also explained. Both sides expressed the hope that the Common Fund negotiations presently underway in Geneva will be successful.

There was agreement that preparations for the UNCTAD V Conference in 1979

should be conducted in a manner which recognises the concerns of the developing countries and leads to an improvement in the international trading environment

The Subcommission reviewed the recent work of the three groups under its aegis: the Joint Business Council, the Industrial Technology Working Group and the Agricultural Inputs and Associated Technology Working Group. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the progress of these groups in exchanging information and ideas and noted the role of the respective private sectors. In particular, the Subcommission noted with satisfaction that the Joint Business Council's project to promote Indo-U.S. commercial cooperation in third countries was moving ahead.

The Subcommission agreed that its next meeting should take place in 1979 in Washington, D.C.

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Date: Dec 01, 1978

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1995

BANGLADESH

Joint Rivers Commission Talks

The following is the text of the joint Press release issued in New, Delhi on, December 10, 1978 on the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission talks:

The 16th meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission was held in Dacca on November 6, 1978 and subsequently on December 8,9 and 10, 1978. Mr. B. M. Abbas, A. T. Minister for Power, Water Resources and Flood Control, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Chairman of the Commission presided over the meeting.

The Indian side was composed of Shri S. S. Barnala, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, Government of the Republic of India, Co-Chairman and Sarvashri C. C. Patel, M. Dubey, R. Tandon and K. V. Rama Rao, Members and Sarvashri M. N. Venkatasen, M. M. Lal, Deb Mukharji, R. Rangachari, Chiranjiv Singh and O.P. Gupta, Advisers.

The Bangladesh side was composed of Mr. B. M. Abbas, A. T. Chairman and Messrs, Harnur Rashid, M. F. A. Siddiqui and Dr. H. R. Khan, Members and Messrs. Bahauddin Ahmed, Shamsul Huq Mohinuddin Ahmed Azizul Haq Chowdhury, Md. Amjad Hossain

Khan, Sheikh Abid Ali and A. B. Z. Shamsuzzoha, advisers.

The Commission discussed three major items viz. (a) augmentation of the dry weather flow of the Ganges, (b) Teesta and (c) border rivers.

On the augmentation of the dry season flow of the Ganges, there was considerable discussion on the methods of the study. The matter will be further discussed in the next meeting. On the question of the Teesta, the Commission considered the report of the Official level Committee of the JRC on the subject and set up a Joint Committee of the Commission for the purpose of working out an agreement on sharing of Teesta waters after examining the availability of water, requirement of water by each country and how these requirements can be met. The Committee has been asked to complete its work before the next meeting of the JRC. The problems of the rivers on the border of Bangladesh-Assam Tripura sector and Bangladesh-West Bengal sector were discussed and it was agreed that the joint inspection would be carried out soon.

The meeting took place in an atmosphere of cooperation and cordiality.

The Commission decided to hold its next meeting in New Delhi in early February 1979 at a mutually convenient date.

BANGLADESH INDIA LATVIA UNITED KINGDOM IRAN USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Dec 01, 1978

Volume No

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BULGARIA

Agreement for Trade in Convertible Currency

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 14, 1978 on the agreement between India and Bulgaria for trade in freely convertible currency front January, 1979:

The Governments of India and the People's Republic of Bulgaria have concluded an agreement in Sofia regarding the liquidation of rupee balance and rupee payment obligations consequent on the termination of the present Trade and Payments Agreement between the two countries on December 31, 1978. It has been decided that with effect from January 1, 1979, all trade and payments

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transactions between India and Bulgaria will be concluded or settled in any freely convertible currency mutually agreed upon between the contracting parties.

The new agreement envisages that payments in respect of contracts or agreements upto December 31, 1978, shall continue to be made in non-convertible Indian Rupee. Payments in respect of all contracts other than deferred payments contracts should be completed before December 31, 1979. If there still remain some contracts unsettled an December 31, 1979, the two Governments will mutually agree on the dates by which these should be settled.

It is proposed that long-term arrangements should be made in regard to items of mutual interest. In this connection the Bulgarian side indicated that possibilities existed in the field of fertilizers, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, steel products, electronics, machinery, complete plants and special equipment, etc. for such long-term arrangements. On the Indian side, iron and maganese ore, leather and leather goods, oil cakes, raw opium and pharmaceutical raw-materials, consumer goods, textile and other machines, etc. were mentioned as items of interest.

One Long Term Agreement for import of urea. for the next three years between the Mineral and Metals Trading Corporation of India and M/s. CGIMIMPORT of Bulgaria was also signed.

Date: Dec 01, 1978

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FRANCE

Meeting of Committee on Economic and Technical Co-ooperation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 22, 1978 on the First Meeting of Indo-French Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation:

India and France have agreed to make efforts to double the volume of bilateral trade in the course of next four years. This was indicated in the Agreed Minutes of the First Meeting of the Indo-French Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation, which concluded in New Delhi on December 22, 1978.

The French delegation to the meeting was led by H.E. Mr. J. F. Deniau, Minister for Foreign Trade, and the Indian delegation by Shri Mohan Dharia, Union Minister for Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation. The Indo-French Joint Committee was set up in January, 1976, through Exchange of Letters between the two Governments and is a successor of two separate Committees which were set up earlier at the Government level viz. the Indo-French Economic Commission under the Trade Agreement of 1959 and the Indo-French Study Group on Economic and Technical Cooperation set up in 1973.

The Committee, which met in New Delhi between December 19 and 22, 1978, reviewed the entire range of economic relations between the two countries, examined difficulties

and obstacles, and discussed ways and means of promoting these relations. Both sides agreed that in order to lend continuity of action to the work of the Committee, a Monitoring Group should be set up. The Group, which would be small and informal to begin with, could meet alternately in the two countries between the formal meetings of the Indo-French Committee

INDO-FRENCH TRADE

Indo-French trade has shown considerable growth in the last few years. The total trade turnover which was Rs. 82.80 crores in 1972-73 rose to Rs. 301.03 crores in 1976-77. During the first 11 months of 1977-78, the two-way trade stood at Rs. 272.82 crores.

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Both sides, however, agreed that in spite of recent increase in the level of exchanges, the volume of trade between India and France was not proportionate to the economic strength of the two countries. It was decided that all efforts should be made for its increase and diversification.

The Indian side wanted to increase its exports particularly of processed food, furniture, car-pets, sports goods, engineering goods, leather goods and marine products. While the French side regretted the decrease of its exports of agricultural products, it expressed satisfaction on the development of its exports of steel, chemical products and aircraft. It also expressed the wish that its share in Indian imports of machinery should be increased singificantly.

The French side, recalling the efforts made by the French Centre for External

Trade in favour of Indian exports, indicated that the C.N.P.F. (National Council of French Manufacturers) were organising a delegation of industrialists which was scheduled to come to India during the first quarter of 1979. The Indian side, expressed its satisfaction on the French initiative.

The Indian side pointed out that quantitative restrictions, regional quota levels within the overall EEC quotas and the implementation of import regulations were creating difficulties for Indian textile exporters, specially for those in the handloom sector. The French side, having noted that Indian textile exports to France had substantially increased during the last three years, said that since this trade took place within the framework of a specific agreement between India and the EEC, these matters should properly form part of discussions between India and the European Commission. The French side would endeavour within the limits of its competence, to reach satisfactory solutions for the parties concerned.

The French side wanted to export more agricultural items like rapeseed oil to India. It also said that it could consider importing from India ground-nut cakes and meal. The Indian side suggested the possibility of exports of de-oiled rice bran, spices and processed food to France.

In the agricultural field, the two sides discussed the general project for the construction of an insecticides plant in Andhra Pradesh and gave special attention to cooperation in production of small farm machinery. With regard to cooperation in third countries concerning irrigation, water resources and solar energy, the Indian delegation suggested organizing a special forum.

In the industrial field, the French delegation expressed the wish of being kept informed of the final decision to be taken by India about the planned construction of "on shore" steel plants and mentioned the desire of French industry to be associated with this new phase in the development of India's steel producing capacity. The Indian side said that possibilities for cooperation existed in the case of Paradeep and Mangalore plants. The French side said that a team from COFRANSID was expected to come to India very soon, with a view to examining whether French industrialists could help India process some of its iron ore or, if necessary, even establish a steel mill and, in exchange, France could consider buying from India iron ore.

Regarding coal production, the French delegation reiterated an earlier offer to study an integrated project including mines equipment and the possible purchase of steamcoal up to one million tonnes per year, provided that it reached French ports at a competitive price. The Indian side expressed its interest in this proposal.

The French side also indicated that the French Coal Board (Charbonnages de France) had recently examined the possibility of offering cooperation to India in minesafety, development of thick seam coal mines and upgradation of coal. It would be sending very soon to CMPDI detailed propositions in these three areas.

Regarding cooperation between India and France for the Bombay High Oil Field development, both sides agreed that the success of the August, 1977 symposium, in which the main French firms specialising in oilfield equipment participated, could lead to increased cooperation in the exploitation of Indian oil resources. The two sides also noted that a beginning had been made towards the implementation of the cooperation agreement between the Central Electricity Autho-

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rity and the Electricite de France. India is interested in obtaining knowhow from EDF on systems planning and bulb type low head turbines. In this connection the French side said that some French firms were interested in a certain number of power projects in India.

The Indian side referred to the visit by the delegation from the French Ministry of Industry in January, 1978, to discuss cooperation in the field of electronics. The Indian side indicated its interest in cooperation in the field of computer peripherals, computer software including application and system software. It was noted by the French side that a delegation from India would be going to France in three or four months.

The two parties agreed that possibilities of collaboration could materialise for mine-

rals (aluminium, alumina, lead, zinc, etc.) concerning either survey of new deposits or opening of new mines and further processing.

THIRD COUNTRY PROJECTS

Both sides agreed that there were many complementarities between Indian and French industries and prospects for cooperation in third countries were bright. The French side said that wherever a French company had established close contacts with Indian companies, cooperation in third countries could be envisaged. In this connection, the French side mentioned several projects in the Middle East and the Gulf area where Indian companies were bidding and where coopeartion between the two countries was possible.

The Indian side emphasised the importance it attached to an early agreement on the Common Fund, particularly regarding contribution to the second window. After recalling its own position the French delegation indicated that it was taking due note of the ideas outlined by the Indian side. The Indian delegation also stressed that safeguard action under Article XIX of GATT should be non-discriminatory and be taken on an MFN basis.

It was decided that the next meeting of the Indo-French Committee would be held in Paris about one year later subject to the convenience of the two parties.

FRANCE INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC RUSSIA LATVIA GERMANY

Date: Dec 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Joint Commission Meeting

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 24, 1978 on the Third Session of the Indo-GDR Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Co-operation:

The Indo-GDR Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation has decided on a time-bound programme for the implementation of several schemes and projects in which India and German Democratic Republic are cooperating.

The projects relate to manufacture of dairy machinery by the Hindustan Machine Tools Limited, import of textiles by GDR from the National Textile Corporation and manufacture of roll films and conversion of magnetic tapes to be supplied in jumbo rolls.

Shri George Fernandes, Minister of Industry, who is Co-Chairman of the Commission had led the Indian delegation to the Third Session of the Commission that met in Berlin from December 21 to 23.

There were also discussions on cooperation in the development of lignite in the Kutch region and on the transfer of technology relating to the manufacture of mini cement plants and manufacture of clinker by means of drying process, low and high voltage porcelain, optical equipment, rubber conveyor belts, brake linings and a large number of items relating to basic chemicals and industrial chemicals.

The Commission noted that the science and technology working programmes already

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agreed upon, had been implemented according to schedule. It was decided that the area of cooperation in this sector would now be enlarged to include the development of high voltage components and testing equipment, laser instrumentation and electron microscopy.

The two countries also negotiated a shipping arrangement which would be formally signed shortly.

In the sphere of trade, it has been agreed by the GDR side that they would initiate, for the first time, imports of handlooms and handicraft products from India. GDR would also import more iron ore from India.

The progress of implementation of programmes and projects of cooperation since the last meeting of the Joint Commission held in New Delhi in September 1977 is good. Collaboration arrangements have been concluded and several projects are in progress. These relate to manufacture of ball bearings, boring and milling machines, cables, epoxy glass copper clad laminates, copper foils, opthalmic blanks, printing machinery, textile machinery and measuring instruments. Contracts have been concluded for supply of films from GDR (cine positive, roll films, colour amateur negatives) to the Hindustan Photo Films.

Trade exchanges have also shown significant increases during the last year. Purchases of Indian products by GDR covered non-traditional items like machine tools, textile machinery and products manufactured by the small scale sector like shoe uppers.

Earlier, at the meeting, Shri Fernandes and Dr. Gerhard Weiss had a detailed discussion on the ways to expand economic cooperation and increase transfer of technology. They also explored possibilities of undertaking joint projects in the third countries, and examined the capabilities India and GDR could develop to complement those of each other.

Shri Fernandes also explained India's priorities in the light of the new Industrial Policy Statement.

Dr. Weiss referred to the forthcoming visit of the GDR President Mr. Erich Honecker and a high-powered delegation to India next month, and pointed these out as evidence of the great importance GDR attached to economic, industrial, scientific and political relations with India.

Shri Fernandes called also on the GDR

President Mr. Honecker and the Prime Minister Mr. Willi Stoph, and had discussions with the economic expert Dr. Guenter Mittag. At these meetings the economic relations between the two countries were discussed, the need to identify new areas for cooperation stressed and the necessity for international peace and disarmament underlined. The GDR leaders also expressed admiration for the role India had played in creating an atmosphere of friendship and cordiality with her neighbours.

Shri George Fernandes conveyed to them his government's appreciation for the willing assistance which the GDR had extended to developing countries. He particularly expressed his gratitude for the spontaneous and generous succour the GDR rendered to the areas affected by the recent floods and cyclone in India.

Shri Fernandes visited a few industrial establishments, including the machine tools complex at Marzahna.

INDIA RUSSIA USA GERMANY

Date: Dec 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

HOME AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

India's Total Commitment to Human Rights Reaffirmed

The Minister for External Affairs, Shri A. B. Vajpayee made Me following speech on the occasion of the Human Rights day at a function sponsored by the Federation of United Nations Associations in New Delhi on December 11, 1978:

Three decades ago this day, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously

adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This Declaration followed on the re-affirmation contained in the United Nations Charter of its faith in fundamental rights and in the dignity and worth of the human person.

Human rights, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration comprise several, specific rights which seek to guarantee the individual life, liberty and protection from torture; equal treatment before the law; political rights and freedom of thought and belief; the right to social security, education and well-being; and the right to work and protection of his economic interests. It is important to recall the comprehensive scope of this Document, since the question of human rights is frequently viewed in international forums in the context of East-West relations and only political and civil rights are emphasised.

COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS

India's commitment to human rights far antedates the Universal Declaration in whose adoption we were deeply involved. It may be traced to the ideals of our freedom movement and the essential elements of compassion and tolerance in our culture. Our Constitution, which was adopted a little more than a year after the Universal Declaration, embodies the essential elements of this Document. The fundamental rights embodied in the Indian Constitution assure the protection of life and personal liberty; equality before the law; prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race or creed; the right to freedom; the right against exploitation; freedom of conscience and religion; as well as providing remedies for enforcement of all these rights. The Constitution also guarantees a number of political rights which ensure that the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of Government, and this shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections by universal, equal suffrage. While our Constitution, on the whole, since its inception, ensured that these fundamental freedoms were observed, the catharsis of the Emergency in June 1975 showed that the checks on arbitrary executive power were not quite adequate. Though the General Elections of March 1977 dramatically overthrew authoritarianism and suppression of fundamental rights, the debate on ways of preventing such a lapse in the future is by no means over, and must continue. It is also true that while the Constitution does indeed guarantee many rights to the people, their enforcement through the courts is not easy for the common man, since the wheels of justice grind slowly and expensively. It is accordingly necessary to give careful thought to this aspect also. And, of course, while our political democracy is gradually enlarging areas where economic rights are assured, the tempo must be quickened very considerably.

India has subscribed to a number of conventions and covenants of the United Nations on the protection and promotion of fundamental human rights. We have recently taken the initiative in the UN to ensure that each State makes a unilateral declaration abjuring torture. We have also proposed the strengthening and establishment of national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights in each country. A measure of the renewed seriousness of all countries to undertake concrete action on the issue of human rights is the coming into force in 1977 of two International Conventions arising from the Universal Declaration - one on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the other on Civil and Political Rights. We hope to announce our accession to these covenants in the near future, in fitting commemoration of the 30th Anniversary.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ASPECTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

At Belgrade in July this year, India took the initiative along with other non-aligned nations in reiterating the importance of the economic and social aspects of human rights, which are to be viewed as an integrated whole with political and civil rights, and inseparable from the requirements of ensuring that society as a whole is free from exploitation and injustice. Eradication of social and economic inequalities is as indispensable for the new, just and equal world order as elimination of the final vestiges of colonialism, racism and apartheid. Our efforts to prevent violation of human rights would not make a significant breakthrough if we continue to

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tackle them in a piecemeal, limited and circumscribed manner.

The one region of the world today, where human rights are violated consistently in contemptuous defiance of international opinion and action by the United Nations, is Southern Africa.

APARTHEID

India has long been an implacable opponent of the gross violation of human rights and the practice of apartheid in Southern Africa.- Long before the U.N. Charter was conceived of, Mahatma Gandhi had waged one of the most significant struggles of history for asserting human equality and dignity in South Africa, and in the process, forged a potent weapon in the technique of 'satyagraha' for struggle against injustice and tyranny. India was the first to raise the question of racial discrimination in South Africa in the United Nations, and projected the view that the racist policies of South Africa were not merely a matter of domestic jurisdiction, but constituted a flagrant violation of the norms of human decency. In 1962, India, along with 33 other nations, moved the General Assembly to call upon all member-States to break off diplomatic relations with South Africa, close their ports to South African ships and boycott South African goods. For her own part, India had taken diplomatic and economic sanctions against South Africa as far back as 1946. Since that time, the General Assembly of the United Nations had condemned apartheid as a crime against humanity and in 1977, the Security Council imposed a mandatory arms emargo against South Africa. In all these developments, our role has been active and crucial.

In other parts of Southern Africa. we have been consistent and unequivocal in condemning the brutalities and injustice inflicted on our African brethren by the illegal White racist regimes. Our solidarity with the freedom fighters is complete, our support for their just cause is unflinching. Whether in the United Nations or in other international forums, or in the sphere of material assistance, India has never been wanting in dedication or action. We pledge our unremitting efforts to the cause of freedom from racist domination of the African people, and the application without the slightest compromise of the universal ethic of the equality of man.

The United Nations has already been involved in the debates on human rights for many years. It is felt by some that despite nearly universal commitment to this issue,. very little has, in fact, been accomplished in reality. It is necessary to keep in mind that the UN is a promotional body - it cannot be used by any country or group to influence the policies of member-States. The protection of human rights will have to take place through the parameters of national sovereignty and policies. The UN can seek to persuade, to disseminate information. It can, through its recommendations, help create conditions conducive to the protection of human rights.

NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY

There has been much talk of the establishment of a supra-national body to monitor and report all gross violations of human rights. We do not believe this is the most effective way in which to deal with the issue. The question of national sovereignty cannot be overlooked. The international community can, at best, assist national governments to establishment and strengthen national machineries for the protection of human rights. The question of human rights has to be de-politieized in international forums, with a more realistic and therefore more effective approach. While championing the cause of human rights, we must never lose sight of the fact that human rights can flourish only in times of peace and in a

climate of conflict, they become the first casualty. Tension breeds insecurity which in turn is used by those who control the State machinery to tighten their hold to the disadvantage of the individual. Human rights can flourish only if there is relaxation of tensions and the citizen is not confronted with an agonising choice between the national security and individual freedom. Any attempt to revive the cold war atmosphere on the question of human rights will be self-defeating. All societies and social systems suffer from some deficiencies. A "Holier than thou attitude" only generates unnecessary antagonism. Similarly, any selective approach to the violation of human rights will be viewed as motivated by extraneous considerations.

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In conclusion, let me say that if the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is to become a reality, we must address ourselves to the task of making people aware or their inalienable rights. The struggle for human freedom is to be first won in the hearts and minds of men. Let us rededicate out-selves anew to this cause on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC YUGOSLAVIA SOUTH AFRICA PERU

Date: Dec 01, 1978

IRAQ Joint Commission Meeting

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 26, 1978 and the Fifth Session of the Indo-Iraq

Joint Commission Meeting in Baghdad:

The Minister for Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilisers, Shri H. N. Bahuguna has expressed the hope that economic relations between India and Iraq would be strengthened to mutual advantage of the two countries and that there will be substantial expansion and diversification of these relations in the coming years.

Shri Bahuguna, who is leading the Indian delegation to the Fifth Session of the Indo-Iraq Joint Commission at Baghdad, was speaking at the plenary session of the Commission which began on December 25, 1978.

Shri Bahuguna said that the Indian economy had been growing from strength to strength and the past one year had been of particular significance. The rate of growth was six pet, cent and the food production in the country had reached a record figure of 126 million tonnes.

The Minister, who is also Co-Chairman of the Commission from the Indian Side, spoke of the remarkable progress made by Iraq under the present leadership and said that the massive development programmes in Iraq afforded a good opportunity to Indian firms to increasingly participate in Iraq's development projects.

The Joint Commission, Shri Bahuguna said, had made remarkable progress during the past and hoped that Indo-Iraq economic relations would develop along sound foundations

The Iraqi Co-Chairman of the Joint Commission, Mr. Ghanim Abdul Jalil, Member of the Revolutionary Command Council said that the friendly and traditional relations between the two countries were growing in various fields and the Fifth Session of the Commission will further strengthen and fortify these relations.

Mr. Jalil expressed the satisfaction that the target fixed in the last session of the Commission had not only been achieved but, in some cases, even surpassed. He particularly thanked Shri Bahuguna for the important role he was playing in making the Joint Commission's work a success and assured him full cooperation from the Iraqi side.

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IRAQ INDIA USA

Date: Dec 01, 1978

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LIBYA

Joint Commission Meeting

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 13, 1978 on the first meeting of the Indo-Libyan Joint Commission Meet in Tripoli:

The economic and technical cooperation between India and Libya is to get further boost from the agreement signed at the conclusion of the first meeting of the Indo-Libyan Joint Commission at Tripoli (Libya) on December 11, 1978. Shri George Fernandes, Minister of Industry, signed the agreement on behalf of India and Shri Jumah-al-Arbash, Libyan Minister of Electricity, for Libya.

It was agreed that India would supply to Libya 5,000 tonnes of tea and 10,000 tonnes of rice and contracts in this regard would be concluded soon.

The work relating to Zuara power station of 600 MW, it was agreed, would be undertaken by the recently formed Indo-Libyan Construction Company and the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited.

The meeting decided that the Libyan

Government would start negotiations with the Indian Roads Construction Corporation in connection with the implementation of the programme for laying of new roads in Libya.

Also, Indian firms would construct over 1,000 buildings, and plan and design another 4,000 buildings, with supporting facilities, for the townships of Nina and Orban. Indian firms would also undertake planning, designing, and construction of the buildings at Garians sites for the Peoples' Congress. The firms would also design and build electrical training institutes and labour training institutes.

It was decided that the Indian organisations would participate in the setting up of training centres in various industrial fields in Libya.

The Joint Commission also discussed agreements on avoidance of double tax, cultural matters and joint ventures, etc.

At the plenary session of the Commission progress in the implementation of the protocol, signed between India and Libya at the conclusion of the visit of the Libyan Vice-President Staff Major Abdul Salam Jalloud to India last July was reviewed, and ways of further cooperation were explored.

Shri Fernandes also had separate meetings with President Col. Gaddafi and the Vice-President Staff Major Abdul Salam Jalloud. He informed them about the new policy and programme initiatives taken by India during the past twenty months and explained to them the all-round economic progress made by the country during this period. He told the Libyan leaders that India was willing to, share her technical expertise with other developing countries and assured them of the determination of Government of India to carry out various bilateral economic and technical programmes as speedily as possible.

Shri Fernandes conveyed to Col. Gaddafi the message from the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai. Responding to it, Col. Gaddafi expressed his satisfaction at the strengthening of the friendly relations between the two countries, and, expressed his confidence in India's capabilities in various fields which he said, were significant for the developing countries. Col. Gaddafi felt that the exchange of visits between the leaders of India and Libya had yielded positive results for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

Col. Gaddafi accepted the invitation to visit India at an early date.

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Date: Dec 01, 1978

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MALDIVES

Shri Vajpayee Hosts Dinner for Maldive's Foreign Minister

The following is the text of the speech by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, at a dinner he held in honour of His Excellency Mr. Fathulla Jameel, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Maldives in New Delhi on December 28, 1978:

We have assembled here this evening to extend a cordial welcome to His Excellency the Foreign Minister of Maldives.

Your Excellency is not a stranger to India or to Delhi. Welcome you again in our midst as a representative of a neighbour with whom India has indestructible ties based on geography, reinforced by shared tradition, religion and culture. We have parallel aspirations and a common determination to achieve progress at home and peace and stability in our region and in the wider international landscape. As members of the Non-

aligned fraternity, we are both committed to respect independence and the right to have independent judgement and pursuit of policies which will further our national objectives and obtain an environment of peace and cooperation. Maldives, like us, we believe, would like the Indian Ocean, through which lies the artery of our international trade and cooperation to become a zone of peace untroubled by competitive military presence of non-regional powers.

We appreciate Maldives' policy of steering clear of military blocs, of non-alignment, and of peace and cooperation with its neighbours. They provide a strong foundation for the development of our bilateral relations and for cooperation in international forums in strengthening understanding and harmony among nations, and serve as a disincentive to external forces interfering in the affairs of our region.

We have noted the rapid progress which Maldives has been making in the economic exploitation of its own maritime resources and notably in harnessing its piscicultural potential. Although I have not visited Maldives, we have heard about the pristine and unspoilt beauty of your Islands. This has naturally attracted the interest of international tourism and opened the possibility of developing this potential to your national advantage. In our small way, through the development of air links between India and Maldives, we have contributed to this effect and we rejoice in seeing the rapid growth of tourism to Maldives.

Your Excellency must be aware of the sincere, and strenuous efforts which our Government has been taking since it assumed office to build up an atmosphere of confidence and trust with our neighbours. We have resolved some old problems and have made beginnings which would promote good-neighbourly cooperation. We have reason for satisfaction that in inter-State relationships in South Asia, there are fewer tensions than in the past. In the framework of our vision, we envisage improved relations and cooperation between India and Maldives.

We are glad that in the last few years, and notably in recent months, our bilateral relations have been strengthened. We had the privilege of receiving the President in his previous capacity as Minister of Transport twice during this year. Shri Arif Beg who was present at the inauguration of His Excellency the President came back impressed by the progress which has been made by Maldives. It is our sincere hope that on the basis of mutual consultations we can enhance this cooperation in a way which could be of advatage and contribute to the planned development of the Republic of Maldives. As I have mentioned earlier, we have great interest in the growth of our friendship and our cooperation and an over-riding interest that the Ocean, which we share between the countries of this region, should become an Ocean of Peace where international commerce -and cooperation can thrive free from the shadow of great power military rivalries.

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In welcoming you once again, may I request my colleagues to raise their glasses in toast to the health of His Excellency, the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Maldives, and friendship between our two countries.

MALDIVES INDIA USA

Date: Dec 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

MALAYSIA

Bilateral Talks in Kuala Lumpur

The Following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 7,

1978 on the India-Malaysia bilateral talks:

The annual bilateral talks between Malaysia and India were held in Kuala Lumpur from December 4 to 5, 1978. The Malaysian delegation was led by Tan Sri Zakaria Bin Haji Mohamed Ali, Secretary General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kuala Lumpur. The Indian delegation was led by Shri J. S. Mehta, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi.

The talks were held in a very warm and cordial atmosphere. Both sides reviewed international and regional issues as well as bilateral relations. They had a very useful exchange of views on bilateral trade and economic relations and agreed that there were excellent prospects for increasing cooperation between the two countries and in the region. The discussions also covered the fields of cultural and technical cooperation particularly exchange of students, training facilities, exchange of information etc. The Indian side offered to make available assistance in feasibility studies for industrial projects selected by the Malaysian side.

The next annual bilateral talks will be held in New Delhi in 1979.

MALAYSIA INDIA USA

Date: Dec 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

NORWAY

Supply of Fisheries Equipment

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 22, 1978 on the Indo-Norwegian Agreement on supply of fisheries equipment:

India and Norway signed on December 22, 1978 a Plan of Operation for the supply of equipment to Central Fishery Institutions and projects in this country. The document was signed by the Joint Secretary (Fisheries) in the Department of Agriculture, Shri R. K. Saxena, on behalf of Union Department of Agriculture and by Dr. O. Christenson on behalf of NORAD.

Norway has provided Rs. 48 lakhs out of the Norwegian aid for procuring equipments and spares, this year. A sum of Rs. 6.4 crores has been placed at India's disposal for boat building programmes.

Norwegian aid was available to India for procurement of fisheries equipment since 1972. The aid was Rs. 48 lakhs in 1972, Rs. 32 lakhs each in 1973 and 1974 and 54 lakhs in 1975. During 1976-77 Norway provided Rs. 64 lakhs to India for procuring fisheries equipments for Central Institutes and Construction of one Fisheries Research

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Vessel for Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Cochin.

Apart from the above aid, Norway has provided to India financial and technical assistance for construction of six fisheries survey and training vessels at Goa Shipyard for Exploratory Fisheries Project, Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering, Training, Cochin and Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Bombay.

NORWAY INDIA

Date: Dec 01, 1978

Volume No

Shri Desai Speech at Banquet for Mr. Lee Kuan Yew

The following is the text of the speech the prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, at a banquet given by him in honour of Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, in New Delhi on December 13,1978:

It gives me great pleasure to extend a warn, and cordial welcome to Your Excellency, Mrs. Lee and members of your delegation on your visit to our country. We welcome you not only as the Prime Minister of a friendly country but as a dynamic leader of a modern industrial state which has successfully achieved its present prosperity under your able leadership and which owes to you so much for its organised and imaginative progress and for many successful innovations in various fields. Hardly any aspect of enrichment of the life of your citizens escapes your eager eye.

Our country, Your Excellency, is no stranger to you. We have had the pleasure of receiving you here on earlier occasions. But your present visit is taking place at a time when we are witnessing a new orientation in the life and outlook of our peoples in South and South-East Asia. A great awakening is observed in the countries of this region and I have no doubt that Asia has at. last emerged from its slumber and apathy to a realisation of its own potentialities and its own place in world polity.

Having successfully emerged from the era of domination to independence, our people are engaged in a common endeavour to build a life of dignity and to create a society based on equality and fraternity. We see our tasks as part of a wider historic movement which would reshape the present order of things in order to ensure that mankind lives in peace and free from fear and want. Our efforts have been pursued in a spirit of co-operation and peaceful co-existence. At the same time,

our people have a passionate desire to preserve their hard-won independence. Our policy of non-alignment is an expression of our desire to be free, and by enlarging the area of peace and international understanding, to make the world safe for development.

Excellency, relations between our two countries are characterised by a spirit of cooperation and understanding. We have watched with admiration the great economic strides taken by your country which is today by far the most sophisticated industrial country in south-east Asia. We wish you every success in your efforts which form a valuable contribution to mankind's desire to rid the world of the scourge of poverty and consequent confrontation. It also gives me pleasure to recall that you have made great progress to achieve an integrated and progressive society from a population of diverse ethnic origins. We are proud that immigrants from India and their descendants take full part in the making of your nation as proved and valued citizens of Singapore.

Faced with common problems and conscious of the inter-dependence of nations in a fast shrinking world, the countries of South and South-East Asia have a fresh opportunity today to renew their age-old contacts and co-operation with the possibilities offered by this age of science and industry. Indeed a new awareness of this Asian personality,

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proud of their heritage, is pulsating through this region today. A number of experiments in good-neighbourly relations, sub-regional and, regional cooperation are on the anvil. I have no doubt that they will succeed and provide further encouragement for us to come closer. My Government has availed of these opportunities to strengthen our relations with our immediate neighbours. It is in this context that we have welcomed the ASEAN as a legitimate manifestation of the desire of States in South-East Asia to come closer to each other. It is also our hope that this co-operation can in due course extend to the entire region of South-East Asia and overcome the tensions prevailing in IndoChina. It is only through such co-operation and mutual understanding that we can create in this region a zone of peace free from the presence of elements which may seek in our waters opportunities for ventilating their rivalries and practising their power politics. I venture also to suggest that it is through these means that we can promote the idea of self-help to a maximum degree.

Excellency, I am certain that your visit. will help us to discover new areas of co-operation and provide an impetus to work together for the common service of mankind in a world free from tensions and gross inequities.

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I request you to join me in a toast to: the health of His Excellency Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore; the progress and prosperity of Singapore; and the everlasting and growing friendship between our two countries.

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE INDIA USA CHINA

Date: Dec 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

SINGAPORE

Joint Press Statement

The following is the text of the India-Singapore joint press statement isssud in New Delhi on December 14, 1978:

His Excellency Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, arrived in New Delhi on December 12, 1978, on a State Visit to India. During his stay, he had discussions with the Vice-President, the Prime Minister and other Ministers. In these discussions they reviewed the international situation, with particular reference to the developments in Asia. Bilateral relations between India and Singapore were also considered.

The talks took place in an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual understanding. The Prime Minister of Singapore and the Prime Minister of India recalled with pleasure the various opportunities they have had for exchange of views on matters of common interest, and felt that they had contributed to the strengthening of bilateral relations between the two countries. Welcoming the new spirit of co-operation amongst States, both in South Asia and among the ASEAN countries, the two Prime Ministers were of the view that efforts should be made to consolidate regional cooperation as a vital factor for peace, stability and economic development. With reference to the situation in Southeast Asia, the two leaders emphasized the need for peaceful and constructive relations to be developed among all nation States on the basis of the principle of non-interference in internal affairs and respect for sovereignty.

The Prime Minister of Singapore briefed the Prime Minister of India on the progress made by ASEAN. The Prime Minister of India reiterated India's support for ASEAN, and its continued commitment to the establishment of a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality in Southeast Asia. The Prime Minister of India indicated India's desire to establish closer relations with ASEAN. The Prime Ministers felt that increasing co-operation between India and the countries of the ASEAN region is of mutual advantage. Both sides expressed satisfaction that the ASEAN Secretary-General held exploratory talks with the Government of India on possible forms of co-operation between ASEAN and India.

The two Prime Ministers appreciated the successes recorded in developing the res-Pective economies and the priority they attach to raising the living standards of the People. They also noted that the already 365

existing wide range of cooperation between the two countries could be expanded especially in the fields of trade, investment and transfer of technology.

The Prime Minister of Singapore extended an invitation to the Prime Minister of India to visit Singapore. The invitation accepted with pleasure.

The Prime Minister of Singapore New Delhi today to visit Agra, Fatehpur-Sikri, Bangalore, Mysore and Madras. He is accompanied by Mrs. Lee, Ministers and senior officials of the Singapore Government.

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE INDIA USA

Date: Dec 01, 1978

Volume No

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UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Talks on Trade and Economic Co-operation

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 1, 1978 on Indo-Soviet talks On Trade and Economic cooperation:

Shri V. G. Rajadhyaksha, Member, Planning Commission and His Excellency Mr. H. N. Inozemtsev, Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Planning of the USSR, initialled on December 1, 1978 a long-term Programme of Economic, Trade, Scientific and Technical Cooperation between India and the USSR. This programme would now be submitted to the respective governments and would be signed in due course at appropriate level

Apart from continuation of cooperation in traditional sectors of ferrous and non-

ferrous metallurgy, particularly in connection with design and construction of the Vizagapatnam Steel Plant, setting up of an alumina plant in Andhra Pradesh and expanding and modernising the steel plants at Bokaro and Bhilai, the programme breaks new ground in fields such as joint study of specific problems in building high dams and utilisation of the 'directed explosion' method. The other areas identified for co-operation include agriculture, animal husbandry, specially regarding breeding of Marino sheep and Pashmina goats, application of new technology in geological exploration and recovery methods in minerals like coking coal, nickel, silicon and cobalt.

In agriculture, the programme provides for the exchange of know-how in areas like high-yielding varieties of oilseeds, foodgrains, cotton and pest control. Areas of cooperation identified in the programme, relating to science and technology include subjects such as energy and energy resources and important branches of fundamental sciences and space research.

Cooperation in third countries and production cooperation and specialisation are other important features of the long-term programme. The programme also envisages cooperation in the field of planning, exchange of knowledge and experience in the techniques and methodology of planning.

The agreement visualises substantial increase in the volume of trade, strengthening of trade promotional measures, continued supplies of commodities such as petroleum products, fertilizers, and non-ferrous metals from the Soviet Union and increased exports of labour-intensive consumer goods and agricultural and industrial products.

The programme would have a time-span of 10-15 years.

The initialling ceremony was attended among others by H.E. Mr. Y. M. Vorontsov. Ambassador of the USSR in India, H.E. Mr. V. I. Litvinenko, Deputy Chairman of the State Committee of the USSR for Foreign Economic Relations, Shri Mantosh Sondhi,

Secretary, Ministry of Steel & Mines and Shri U. S. Bajpai, Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

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INDIA USA

Date: Dec 01, 1978

Volume No

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UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Trade Protocol for 1979

The following is the text of a press release issued in New Delhi on December 23, 1978 on the Indo-Soviet Trade Protocol for 1979:

The annual Trade Protocol for 1979 between India and USSR envisages a total turnover of Rs. 1,200 crores. The Protocol was signed, in New Delhi on December 23, 1978 by the Union Commerce Secretary, Shri C. R. Krishnaswamy Rao Sahib, on behalf of India and Mr. I. T. Grishin, Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade, on behalf of the USSR.

The target for trade turnover set for 1979 is 15-20 per cent higher than the expected turnover for 1978, which, itself is likely to far exceed the target of one and a half to two fold increase in the volume of Indo-Soviet trade by 1980 set in the Joint Declaration signed during Mr. Brezhnev's visit to India in 1973.

A number of non-traditional products like machine tools, fork-lift trucks, wire ropes, electronic instruments, including computer soft ware, aluminium power cables, garage equipment, hand tools, automobile storage batteries, chemicals including cosmetic goods, in addition to the traditional exports of tea, coffee, tobacco, cashew kernels, cotton textiles, leather, shoes etc. are included in the export list. The imports from the USSR would include crude, kerosene and diesel oil, fertilizers, DDT, non-ferrous metals, asbestos, newsprint, cement, machinery and equipment for Soviet assisted projects in India etc.

INDIAN EXHIBITION

The Indian National Exhibition held in Moscow in August, 1978, and the high level discussions held by the Commerce Minister in the USSR during his visit there, have had a positive impact on the present trade talks between the two countries. The potential of the Indian economy in production of industrial and agricultural goods, including labour intensive goods has been recognised and increased provisions have been made for such items like handicrafts, spectacle frames, wood veneers of tropical wood, hand made woollen carpets, shoe uppers and finished leather. Provisions have also been made for new items like spray booths, petrol dispensing equipment, pneumatic tools and tool kits, steam boilers, heating equipment, printing machinery, incinerators, etc. There is a so scope for supplying sports goods and cotton hosiery in view of the on-coming Olympiad in Moscow.

The talks were held in the traditional atmosphere of friendship and cooperation.

INDIA USA RUSSIA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Dec 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

VIETNAM

Shri Vajpayee Hosts Dinner for Vietnam Deputy Prime Minister

The following is the text of the speech by the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, at a dinner he held in honour of His Excellency Mr. Nguyen Duy Trinh, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, in New Delhi on December 29, 1978:

Your Excellency and friends, it gives me great pleasure to welcome Your Excellency and the distinguished members of your delegation once more to India.

The people of India have long admired the courage and tenacity with which the people of Vietnam fought an epic struggle for liberation. It is a matter of tremendous satisfaction that our countries enjoy such excellent relations and share a common desire to further develop and expand our friendship.

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At the beginning of this year we were privileged to receive His Excellency Mr. Pham Van Dong, the Prime Minister of Vietnam and since then many dignitaries have come from Vietnam and we have been able to exchange views on a wide variety of subjects. Many Indian delegations have also gone to Vietnam, and have come back enriched with their experiences. Your visit has provided us another opportunity of exchanging views on the international situation and on bilateral matters. We have benefited greatly from our talks.

Excellency, the people of our two countries are engaged in a common struggle to build a better world where the dignity of man is a cardinal principle; where society will be free from want and exploitation; and where all can aspire to a decent life and the proper utilisation of their talents. In this endeavour we believe that there is much that we can learn from each other's experience and such cooperation can be of mutual benefit.

We are well aware of the enormous tasks which your Government and people have undertaken in reconstructing the economy of Vietnam. We feel certain that the tremendous abilities and capacity of your people will make Vietnam as great in peace as it was in war. We believe that the international community has an obligation to contribute to this effort. We are happy that we have been able to work out a programme of economic cooperation which not only serves this purpose but also enhances the exchanges between our two countries to mutual advantage.

Excellency, you are visiting almost all the countries of South Asia. I trust that you have noted the improvement of relations in our region. It has been the policy of our Government to place a very high priority on improving these relations in the spirit of benefical bilateralism. We are happy that we have moved to establish areas of positive cooperation and have solved several problems of longstanding through bilateral negotiations. We draw further inspiration for our efforts from the thought that the reduction of tensions makes it more difficult for the powers to intervene or to use our region a stage for their own rivalries.

It was our hope that after peace had been established finally in Indo-China, the entire region of South-East Asia would settle down to an era of reconstruction and cooperation. Unfortunately, some tensions have now appeared. It is our earnest hope and desire that these problems can be solved by peaceful negotiations. We feel that the establishment of greater regional cooperation in South-East Asia and in South Asia are mutually beneficial. As in South Asia, so in South-East Asia, we would like to see the region prosper in stability based on cooperation and trust between the independent nations which constitute each region.

India and Vietnam are both developing, non-aligned countries. Non-alignment as a basis for foreign policy has stood the test of time and has attained ever-growing validity in resolving the major problems facing the world today. We share a common obligation and a common objective to work for the en-

hancement of peace and stability in the world; for the elimination of nuclear weapons and the achievement of comprehensive disarmament; for the establishment of a new international economic order; and for the preservation of the independence of all sovereign nations. We look forward to close cooperation in achieving these goals at the forthcoming non-aligned summit in Havana.

Excellency, your visit has been short, but I hope that it has been fruitful. We look forward to closer cooperation between our. two countries in many fields.

May I request you to join me in a toast to the health of His Excellency Mr. Ton Dut Thang, President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; His Excellency Mr. Pham Van Dong, Prime Minister of Vietnam; His Excellency Mr. Nguyen Duy Trinh, Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister of Vietnam; and to the friendship and warm relations between India and Vietnam.

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VIETNAM INDIA USA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CHINA CUBA

Date: Dec 01, 1978

Volume No 1995 VIETNAM Press Statement

The following is the text of the India-Vietnam press statement issued in New Delhi on December 30, 1978:

The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, His Excellency Mr. Nguyen Duy Trinh visited India from December 28 to 30, 1978 in the course of a visit to some Asian countries.

During his stay the Deputy Prime Minister was received by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Morarji Desai. The Deputy Prime Minister of Vietnam also had talks with the Minister of External Affairs of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The two sides exchanged views on bilateral relations and on international issues of mutual concern. The Vietnamese side thanked the Government and the people of India for their sympathy and support and assistance to the Vietnamese people in their task of national reconstruction.

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the pace of development of relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries which stemmed from a spirit of solidarity and mutual benefit. The two sides discussed measures to further improve and expand cooperation in various fields between the two countries.

There was wide ranging exchange of views on international problems including the situation in their respective regions or South and South-East Asia and both sides stressed the necessity of promoting peace and stability in these regions to enable the peoples to engage in the task of national reconstruction and development and mutually beneficial cooperation.

The two sides also discussed the consolidation and strengthening of the unity among the countries in the non-aligned movement and agreed to continue to implement resolutions adopted at the Summit Conference of the non-aligned countries in Colombo and at the Conference of Foreign Ministers in Belgrade. Both sides emphasised the importance of the Sixth Summit Conference to be held in Havana in 1979 and were convinced that member countries of the movement will take active preparations to ensure the success of the Summit Conference.

Date: Dec 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

ZAMBIA

Shri Desai's Speech at Banquet for Zambian Prime Minister

The following is the text of the speech by the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, at a banquet given by him in honour of Mr. Daniel M. Lisulo, Prime Minister of the Republic of Zambia, in New Delhi on December 6, 1978:

I have great pleasure in extending a renewed welcome to you, Mr. Prime Minister, and members of your distinguished delegation, as we meet here tonight. The ties between our two great countries have traditionally been warm and close. These bonds of friendship and constructive cooperation acquire even more depth and meaning when we consider our two peoples' common belief in the ethos that ensures, to use the words of your President Kaunda, that great and good man who is respected and admired by us in India, "the high valuation of Man and respect for human dignity" which are the bedrock on which the construction of the new society which we are engaged in building up should be based. We have watched with respect and admiration how you have constantly endeavoured to keep these ideals in mind as Zambia has set itself on the path of

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nation-building and development. We have seen also how you very firmly have held on to these principles despite the difficulties you have had to face as a result of the situation unleashed by the intransigent forces of racialism in Southern Africa. May I assure

you that we are prepared to do all we can to assist and offord all cooperation to Zambia at all times and thus help in the fulfilment of the aims and aspirations of her great people?

In my own country, Mr. Prime Minister, our people have been engaged in the task of building a social and economic order which will ensure that the fruits of development are spread equitably over all sections of our society. At the same time, over the last 21 months my Government has endeavoured to ensure that the task of social and economic development proceeds side by side with the assurance to our people of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Our commitment to the latter is inalienable and our obligation to preserve and nurture our democratic tradition is a primary one. Simultaneously our economic policies which have laid great stress on agriculture and the development of small scale industries have sought to provide wider employment opportunities to every section of our people and involve them at all levels in the development process. In the planning for this task we have given pride of place to much neglected weaker sections of the people living in thousands of villages all over the country.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

In the field of external relations, Mr. Prime Minister, we have achieved a reasonable amount of success in building up friendship, goodwill and cooperation with our neighbours in Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. We are irrevocably committed to the achievement of peace based on the universal application of the principles of active peaceful co-existence as spelt out in the fundamental principles of the non-aligned movement, the achievement of free social development of all countries, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, to ending the divisions of the world into antagonistic military-political alliances and the strengthening of international cooperation on the basis of equality so that progressive change and solidarity among all the world's peoples become the order of the day.

In this context the growing aggressive-

ness and defiance of the minority regimes in Southern Africa is a matter of grave concern to us. The conflicts and tensions engendered by these regimes constitute a serious impediment to the establishment of universal peace, harmony and cooperation. The traditional, heartfelt opposition of the people of India to the evils of apartheid, racism and racial discrimination is well known. The foundation of our abhorrence for such policies was laid when the Father of Our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi launched his Satyagraha against repression in South Africa at the end of the last century. In the decades that have gone by since then, colonialism and repression all over the globe have been drastically reduced and we have seen countries gain their freedom and oppressed peoples liberated. And yet, due to the blind defiance and tragic indifference of the white minority regimes in Southern Africa, inequality and injustice have still not outlived their day in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa. The situation in Southern Africa therefore constitutes a serious threat to international peace and security. In the last few months we have seen how plans to establish majority rule based on a free exercise of the right of selfdetermination in Namibia and Zimbabwe have been jeopardized by the uncompromising attitude of the minority regimes. All pressure should be brought to bear on these illegal governments in order that they accept the legitimate demands of the majority population. The Western countries who have authored. plans for independence settlements in these countries should exercise the full weight of their influence on the minority regimes in order that this is accomplished. We have also constantly urged that the Security Council must consider the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the UN Charter so that these illegitimate and even illegal regimes are brought to their senses, and the unjust exploitation of man by man ends. We in India have time and time again reiterated and extended our full and unqualified support for our struggling brethren in Southern Africa.

BRAVE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA

Spurred on by their anguish and des-

peration, the brave people of Zimbabwe and Namibia have had to resort to armed struggle against their tyrannical rulers. Typically, the latter have reacted to this by unleashing even more brutalities on these courageous people. Side by side, the minority regimes have launched aggressive attacks on those

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brave forntline States who have so selflessly supported the liberation movements. The recent raids by the illegal Rhodesian Smith regime into Zambia and Mozambique have resulted in senseless bloodshed and wanton destruction. Innocent lives have been needlessly sacrificed in the process. The Government and people of India have strongly condemned and deplored these dastardly attacks of aggression.

We in India fully realise the extent of the sacrifices that Zambia has had to make by placing herself so fully on the frontline in the liberation struggle in Southern Africa. May I take this opportunity to reiterate that India sincerely appreciates and commends the principled and honourable stand that our bretheren in Zambia have taken on Southern Africa? The international community should not and cannot let Zamia down. We on our Part are, and will continue to be, fully behind our Zambian brethren and will, within the limits of our capacity, seek to give more and more concrete expression to our firm and unshakable solidarity with them by intensifying our cooperative endeavours with Zambia in every field. The stand taken by Zambia on Southern Africa today is an inspiration to the peoples of the whole world. Mr. Prime Minister, it is my firm hope and belief that your visit will contribute further to the achievement of our aims to take the friendship and dialogue between the peoples of Zambia and India an even more constructive and enduring one.

May I now request you to join me in a toast to the health and happiness of His Excellency Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, President of the Republic of Zambia, to His Excellency, Mr. Daniel M. Lisulo, Prime Minister of the

Republic of Zambia and members of his distinguished delegation, to the happiness, progress and prosperity of the people of Zambia and to the everlasting friendship between the Peoples of our two countries.

ZAMBIA INDIA USA BANGLADESH NEPAL PAKISTAN SRI LANKA SOUTH AFRICA ZIMBABWE NAMIBIA MOZAMBIQUE

Date: Dec 01, 1978

Volume No

1995

ZAMBIA

H.E. Mr. Lisulo's Speech

Replying to the toast, H.E. Mr. Lisulo said:

It is with immense pleasure that I and my delegation have come to visit this important and great country. I wish to thank most sincerely His Excellency the President of India, Your Excellency and Members of your Government and all the people of India for the warm welcome and reception we have received since we touched your soil. We have been in Maharashtra and Tamilnadu States. Everywhere we have been received with genuine and sincere feelings of warmth. Mr. Prime Minister, I bring you and through you, to His Excellency the President and the entire people of this country profound greetings from His Excellency the President of the United National Independence Party and of the Republic, Dr. Kenneth David Kaunda, the Party and his Government the people of the Republic of Zambia.

SENTIMENTAL VALUES

We are very happy to be here today. For me personally returning to India is like going back home after a long period in another country. India, to me,, has most sentimental values than I can express in words. This sentiment is shared by many of my compatriots who either had their training in or have visited this great country. Zambians are always treated with the utmost cordiality and respect here. We also have Indian nationals in Zambia. Some of whom have not only made it their permanent home or place of residence, but have also contributed considerably to the political, economic, social, scientific, technological and cultural development of Zambia.

Mr. Prime Minister, Sir, distinguished guests Your Excellencies, and friends, Zambia and India share a lot of things in common. It is for this reason that the bonds of friendship, solidarity and the fraternity between our two countries continue to grow from strength to strength. As you are aware, His Excellency the President, Dr. Kaunda, and other leaders are great admirers of Mahatma Gandhi and they hold strong belief in his Principles of non-violence and Satyagraha, by which India attained her independence.

Apart from sharing the common colonial heritage Zambia and India have an identical approach to international issues. India and

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Zambia belong to the Non-aligned movement, the history of which will be incomplete without reference to the positive role India has played since its inception. The non-aligned movement tries to stabilise the tension between the Eastern and Western blocs. It seeks to harmonise the interests of the third world countries. To this end, the forthcoming summit meeting in Havana, symbolises yet another landmark in the movement's endeavours in contributing towards a just world order.

Mr. Prime Minister, India, like Zambia, is a member of the United Nations and her current chairmanship of the United Nations Sanctions Committee has underlined the importance your country attaches to the liberation struggle in Southern Africa.

COMMONWEALTH

Your Excellency, India and Zambia are members of the Commonwealth. As you know, Zambia is hosting the forthcoming Commonwealth Summit Conference next year. This. in itself, is an expression of confidence by other Member-States in Zambia to hold such a conference. On its part Zambia has taken all measures to ensure that the Conference is a success.

The pangs of hunger, poverty, ignorance and disease still afflict our people, whose survival depends on even greater cooperation and effort among the third world countries. In order to realise this goal, there is an absolute need for third world countries to expand trade amongst themselves and also to protect their own raw materials from exploitation. There is also need for third world countries to consolidate and harmonise the political relations among themselves. It is in this connection that the Zambian delegation is visiting India. We have come to review together our existing agreements in the economic, technical, political, social and cultural fields and to map out new programmes for the future benefit of our peoples.

Zambia is committed to the philosophy of humanism which upholds the dignity of man regardless of colour, race, religion or creed. We are, therefore, relentlessly committed to the liberation struggle as a matter of principle and will continue to discharge our obligation on behalf of progressive and peaceloving peoples the world over.

Mr. Prime Minister. Zambia has thrown its full support behind the patriotic front in Zimbabwe and SWAPO in Namibia in the liberation struggle. It continues to suffer - acts of wanton aggression from the minority regimes in Rhodesia and South Africa. We are convinced that in their desperate manoeuvres to gain acceptance of the sham agreement of the so-called internal settlement of Rhodesia, Ian Smith and his henchmen plan to destroy Zambia and other front-line States in order to render them ineffective to perform their role as dependable rear bases

for liberation movements. The racists and their collaborators hope that by this form of intimidation they can weaken the Nationalist struggle in Southern Africa. Their calculations are definitely wrong. Zambia shall continue to support the intensification of the struggle.

ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES

As you know, Mr. Prime Minister, Zambia has undergone very serious economic difficulties since 1965 as a result of its stand against the racism, exploitation of man by man. This situation has become more explosive than ever before. Continuous acts of wanton attacks on frontline States, particularly on Zambia by the Rhodesian racist regime and South Africa, demonstrates the magnitude of the situation very vividly. Over the years Zambia has drawn the attention of the world to an imminent halocaust in the Southern African region has dutifully called for concerted action to nip the disaster in the bud. It is to be hoped that the factors of racism, ideological conflicts, tribalism or sectionalism which are progressively being introduced on the scene will now serve as an eye-opener and spur the world community to appreciate the gravity of the situation and to take concerted action for the establishment of peace, progress and freedom, based on justice.

REAR BASE

Zambia's ability to act as a rear base has been adversely affected by unreliable trade routes and the depressed copper prices. When we attained independence in 1964, our only cheap outlet to the sea was through what is now hostile racist and rebel regime of Rhodesia. Zambia will continue in her efforts to establish and mantain voluntarily pew routes through independent neighbouring States such as Tazara Railway jointly owned with

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Tanzania and Banguiar Railway route through neighbouring Angola. Copper prices on the world market have dropped to a very low level indeed. World economic recession has also contributed to Zambia's economic ills. It is estimated by the United Nations that Zambia has lost 1.5 billion dollars as a result of the economic sanctions on Rhodesia by the United Nations in spite of Zambia's appeal to the international community for redress,

In the ultimate, the liberation movement must triumph over the forces of oppression in Southern Africa because theirs is a just cause. The alternative would be too ghastly to contemplate. The comity of nations must, therefore, rededicate itself anew to increasing practically material, moral, political and economic support to the liberation movements and honour their international obligations undertaken in the United Nations, the Commonwealth, nonaligned movement and other international forums.

As humanists in Zambia, we sincerely hope that the knowledge that man is the same the world over will bring us all nearer together in shaping man's destiny in peace, freedom and justice. It is in this spirit Mr. Prime Minister, that I take this opportunity to ask you Mr. Prime Minister and all those present here to join me in a toast to the long and continued good health of His Excellency the President, Mr. Sanjiva Reddy, to the long and continued good health of His Excellency the Vice-President, Mr. B. D. Jatti, to the long and continued good health of your Excellency, the Prime Minister of India, to the success of your Government, to the constant consolidation and further improvement over the friendly relations between our two countries and the peoples, to the health of their Excellencies gathered here tonight with us. I thank you.

ZAMBIA INDIA CUBA USA NAMIBIA ZIMBABWE SOUTH AFRICA CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC TANZANIA ANGOLA

Date: Dec 01, 1978

Volume No

ZAMBIA

joint Communique

The following is the text of the India-Zambia joint communique issued in New Delhi on December 10, 1978:

At the invitation of H.E. Shri Morarji Desai, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, H.E. the Rt. Hon'ble Mr. D. M. Lisulo, Prime Minister of the Republic of Zambia, paid a State visit to India from December 2nd to 10th, 1978. He was accompanied by the Hon'ble Dr. S. G. Mwale, Foreign Minister of Zambia, the Hon'ble R. Chisupa, Minister of Industry and senior officials of the Government of Zambia.

The Zambian Prime Minister and his delegation were received with great warmth and brotherly affection by the Government and people of India, reflecting traditional bonds of friendship, solidarity and fraternity between the two countries.

During his stay in New Delhi, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Zambia 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 for External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The official talks between the Prime Ministers if the two countries were held in an atmosphere of friendship, mutual confidence and complete understanding. For the official talks, the Prime Minister of Zambia was assisted by the Foreign Minister, Hon'ble Mr. S. G. Mwale and the Minister of Industry, Hon'ble R. Chisupa.

During their discussions the two Prime Ministers exchanged views on major international issues of common interest including Non-alignment, Southern Africa, Disarmament, Indian Ocean, Middle-East, New International Economic Order, cooperation among developing countries, and extensively reviewed the bilateral relations between the two countries.

The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the Non-aligned Movement and emphasised the determination of their two governments to work together to preserve the unity, the fundamental principles as well as criteria for admission and to achieve the basic objectives of the Movement. They stressed the importance of the Movement as an independent global factor for the strengthening of solidarity and cooperation of the Non-aligned countries and in their

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common struggle against imperialism, colonialism, racism, apartheid and all forms of foreign domination. They were confident that the Non-aligned Movement can continue to make a meaningful contribution towards consolidation of world peace, the establishment of the New International Economic Order and to mankind's advance towards general and complete disarmament, including nuclear disarmament. Both sides expressed their conviction that the Extraordinary Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-aligned Movement in Maputo (Mozambique) in January 1979 will be an important occasion to emphasise the continuing and resolute support of the Movement to the Liberation Movements of Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa and to the Frontline States.

The two leaders noted with grave concern that the situation in Southern Africa has reached a flash-point as a consequence of the growing aggressiveness of the minority racist regimes against the frontline states and the persistent failure of these regimes to comply with the relevant UN Resolutions, thereby threatening international peace and security. In this context they called upon the International community to step up material, moral and political support to the liberation movements in Southern Africa who had been forced to seek an intensification of their current struggle as a result of the intransigent attitude of the racist regimes. They also underlined the need for the members of the world community to honour international obligations regarding Southern Africa that had been undertaken in the United Nations, the Commonwealth and other international for a. In this context the two leaders also called upon the international community to tighten and extend the scope of U.N. sanctions against the illegal regimes in Southern Africa.

On the question of Namibia, the two leaders were unanimous in their condemnation of the Pretoria regime's unilateral move to hold elections in Namibia with a view to establishing a puppet government in the territory and the recent arrests of SWAPO leaders. They urged that the U.N. Security Council should urgently consider the application of sanctions under Chapter II of the UN Charter against the defiant Pretoria regime. The two leaders reaffirmed their solidarity and support for the sole and authentic liberation movement of the Namibian people-SWAPO.

The two leaders expressed grave concern over the deteriorating situation in Zimbabwe and condemned the wanton and unprovoked attacks on neighbouring Frontline States and, in particular, the recent raids on Zambia and consequent massacre of innocent refugees. They called upon the United Kingdom as the responsible colonial and administering authority to take immediate and positive action to deal firmly and effectively with the root causes of the conflict in that country. They further agreed that any negotiated settlement should be based on the original Anglo-American proposals already accepted as a basis for negotiation. The two leaders also reaffirmed their commitment to increased material assistance to the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe for the effective prosecution of the liberation struggle.

On South Africa the two Prime Ministers once again condemned the apartheid system unreservedly and observed that sooner or later an explosion would take place in that country unless the countries with huge vested economic interests there put pressure on the racist regime to eradicate apartheid. The two leaders were convinced that continued

repressive measures by South Africa will inevitably lead to revolt by the oppressed peoples of that country.

They agreed that solutions for the existing conflicts between African nations should be sought by peaceful means through negotiations in accordance with the Charter of the Organisation of African Unity, the Charter of the United Nations and the Declarations of the Non-aligned Conference.

The two Prime Ministers expressed their deep concern over the continuing arms race which had led to the squandering of ever greater material and human resources which are needed for speedier economic and social progress, particularly in the developing countries. They agreed that it was necessary to take all possible steps to halt the arms race without delay and for setting in motion the process of general and complete disarmament under strict international control. In this context they underlined the primary role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament.

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The two Prime Ministers noted recent developments and moves to resolve the problems in West Asia and were of the opinion that any lasting and peaceful solution would have to be on the basis of the relevant UN Resolutions, in particular UN Security Council Resolution No. 338. Both sides reiterated the imperative need for the withdrawal of Israel from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the securing of the legitimate national rights of the Arab people of Palestine and the right of all States in the area to independent existence and development.

The two Prime Ministers noted with regret that no significant progress had been made in the implementation of the UN Declaration on Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and called on all countries to extend their full support and cooperation to the littoral and hinterland states in securing the implementation of the UN Declaration.

They exchanged views on possibilities of establishing and promoting cooperation in economic, scientific and technical fields among the littoral, hinterland states and Island states of the Indian Ocean that will be in the interest of the people inhabiting this region.

The two Prime Ministers noted with regret lack of progress in regard to the establishment of the New International Economic Order. They further noted that the two major forces that shape the current international economic developments are the intensification of the process of global interdependence and of collective self-reliance among developing countries. They expressed the hope that the spirit of accommodation and cooperation rather than confrontation would mark the negotiations that are in the offing on North-South economic issues, and create a propitious atmosphere for the formulation of an International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade.

The two Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction that cooperation between their countries in the economic, scientific, technological, social and cultural fields had been progressing satisfactorily. They felt that there were considerable prospects for intensifying present cooperation in these fields and identifying new areas of mutually beneficial cooperation. They agreed that the material and human resources of their two countries should be exploited and mobilised with the aim of taking full advantage of the complementary nature of their economies in the interests of the development of their two peoples. They noted that steps in these directions would further strengthen the close ties of friendship and solidarity that bind the two peoples as also the process of mutual cooperation among developing countries.

The two Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction that a Trade Agreement has been concluded between the two countries during the current visit. They agreed that the current trade exchanges should be further increased taking into account the requirements and possibilities of the two countries.

The Prime Minister noted with satis-

faction that during the course of the visit, agreement had been reached in regard to extension of credit facilities by the Industrial Development Bank of India to the extent of Rs. 100 million to cover exports from India of capital goods and machinery to Zambia as well as on a Government to Government credit that would be extended by India to finance projects in Zambia in the field of agriculture, small scale industries and mutually agreed items.

The Prime Ministers of Zambia explained the special emphasis which the Zambian Government was placing on the development of agriculture and scientific and technological Programmes in certain sectors and sought Indian cooperation in these sectors. The Prime Minister of India agreed that a specific programme of cooperation in these areas can be worked out through expert-level visits. It was agreed that India would cooperate in expanding and strengthening the capabilities of Zambia in the field of consultancy, would meet Zambian requirements for more experts and would consider establishment of mutually beneficial joint ventures.

The Prime Minister of Zambia conveyed his deep appreciation of the technical cooperation that has grown between India and Zambia and particularly of the good work done by the Indian experts currently serving in Zambia.

The two Prime Ministers decided that the communication facilities between the two countries should be improved and their two countries be serviced by their respective national carriers and to that end the negotiations for concluding an Air Agreement would commence soon.

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The two Prime Ministers agreed that the level of exchanges between their two countries now necessitated an Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation. They noted with satisfaction that negotiations in this regard have considerably advanced and directed that the agreement should be concluded in the near future.

The two Prime Ministers agreed to the holding of periodical consultations between their two countries at an appropriate level. They further agreed that these consultations should, inter alai, include the review and monitoring of progress in regard to the many-sided cooperation between their two countries.

The Prime Minister of Zambia renewed the long standing invitation to the Prime Minister of India to visit Zambia. The Prime Minister of India stated that he looked forward to visiting Zambia at an early date.

The Prime Minister of Zambia expressed his profound appreciation for the warm and fraternal hospitality extended to him and his delegation during his visit to India.

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ZAMBIA INDIA USA MOZAMBIQUE NAMIBIA ZIMBABWE SOUTH AFRICA ISRAEL CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Date: Dec 01, 1978