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7 February 1986

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REGIONAL AFFAIRS

ARAB PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY ON ARAB UNITY

Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 20 Oct 85 p 17

[Article by Hasan 'Abdallah: Arab Public Opinion and Arab Unity]

[Text] One of the major reasons for the slackness that surrounds Arab unification action, in thought and practice, is the absence or concealment of Arab public opinion from the arena of unification decisions and experiments, even though Arab unity remains, in spite of all previous and future setbacks, a popular Arab demand that enjoys a majority consensus notwithstanding the periodic disparity in the rate of support or enthusiasm for it, or the necessity, search, and pressure for achieving it in one Arab country or another.

Rarely has this issue been investigated or studied. Arab unity experiments generally remain in the domain of political decisions which, though inspired by the Arab masses' interest in unity, have mostly been unable to benefit from the effective participation of the Arab popular forces not only in the construction of the unitary experiments but also in protecting them from faltering, relapse, and retreat.

Pan-Arab thinking, as well as its practices and experiments have been confined to the Arab elite and the planning and directing of unity efforts have proceeded within the framework of political monopoly, if this expression can be used. Thus the conduct of unity experiments or their setbacks and failures have been removed from the effective and direct concern of the Arab masses which used to and still find themselves in a stage of receiving rather than acting, whether during the stages of establishing unity of various experimentation, or in cases of slackness and unitary ebb.

The evolution of Arab unity thinking has revealed its adherence to certain constants which continued to formulate the guarantees of its renewal and vitality throughout all the previous stages. These axial constants include:

--The unity of the Arab people in spite of their diversification, based on a common language, a common heritage, and single destiny.

--It is the fragmentation accompanying the colonial hegemony that weakened the unitary factors and led to their retreat as the Arab nation was divided into scattered and weak political entities.

The fragmentation contradicts the cultural nature of the Arab nation. It is inconsistent with the nation's history and its heritage, and impedes its natural role in building up human civilization.

- The inevitability of history, geography, and civilization at all their levels are the same inevitable factors that unify the Arab nation and its peoples. Consequently, Arab unity is the natural political expression of Arab nationalism in this part of the world.

These constants continuously emphasized and still emphasize that whatever are the disunity factors, and whatever are the dimensions of backwardness- which are primarily the result of fragmentation Arab unity action is still possible and is necessitated by the conditions of the Arab nation now more than ever.

In light of the above, the question is posited about the mapping of Arab public opinion and its diversified positions in the integrative process relative to the issues of unity and integration.

A precise and detailed answer to this question does not appear to be easy in the absence of scientific field social studies which must deal with this important issue. Probably the pioneer or fundamental study in this area is the one conducted by a group of Arab investigators researching the unity issues and the tendencies of Arab public opinion under the supervision of the Center for Arab Unity Studies in 1980, using a sample of about 6,000 Arab nationals from 10 Arab countries and a questionnaire including different questions reflecting all the facets of unity issues.

The deductions concluded from this basic study can be used by themselves for further studies to complete the foundation work that has been started and to plan methodologies for treating the Arab nation's problems and its fateful concerns, the forerunner of which is the issue of unitary integration.

One of the foremost preliminary deductions revealed by the study is that the faith in the existence of an Arab nation forms a major rallying influence for pan-Arab nationalism and the force of Arab public opinion regarding feelings of pan-Arab affiliation. This is shown in Table No 1.

The figures show that in spite of the progress of socio-economic problems up the ladder of priorities of factual concerns that impose themselves on the Arab citizen, he still concentrates his attention on axial problems that have direct relationship to his concern for pan-Arab unity. Hence, according to the previous table, the Arab divisions and the Palestinian question- as a basis of the Arab-Israeli conflict- came to be at the forefront of the Arab national's worries.

In depth, and implicit in the responses, the problems are linked together, because the vital conception of the importance of unity and Arab union and integration implicitly expresses the Arab national's despair of solving the socio-economic problems except on the basis of the solidarity of unity and the integration of Arab energies. This is a matter of great importance since the major concerns of the Arab national still revolve around the expressions of

the pan-Arab issue in spite of the complications and obligations of the socio-economic status.

The evaluation of the attitudes of samples of the broad Arab public opinion vis-a-vis the previous unity experiments is probably the most difficult criterion in determining its future tendencies. The above-mentioned study indicated that there is a great divergence in the degree of follow-up and awareness of some unity experiments, especially the binational ones, depending on the remoteness or the proximity of the unification event from the historical centers of gravity of the Arab unity movement.

As for the evaluation of the gains and negative aspects of the unification experiments, the same study indicated that 25 percent of those surveyed believed that unity projects brought about more problems than the gains they realized, while 33 percent mentioned that the negative aspects equalled the positive ones. The largest proportion, 42 percent, emphasized that the advantages of unity exceeded its problems. The resultant is that a proportion exceeding 70 percent believes that the advantages of unity, if they do not exceed its negative aspects, are at least their equivalent.

This illustration is due to the feelings of the majority of Arab public opinion and its unified and tenacious will concerning the unification quest under any form of political union which remains, in spite of its forms and in spite of the failure of some of its experiments, the real solution to the many and continuous problems of the Arab nation. Besides this, there is an increasing conviction that no Arab country is able to solve its problems individually. Reality indicates, with increasing severity and seriousness, the necessity and importance of unified confrontation of fragmentation and backwardness to such an extent that 78.5 percent of those surveyed demanded going beyond the cooperation formula that exists in the framework of the Arab League and raising cooperation to higher degrees in response to the rising challenges of destiny so as to realize thereby an organic linkage between the countries of the Arab nation and its peoples. This is shown in statistical Table No 2.

The deductions from the significant figures, as reported, show that some of its significance remains implicit. Those who selected a federal form may have proceeded from a political reality imposed by previous unity experiments. They prefer a unity merger, which even those who selected it find it to be difficult to realize under the current Arab circumstances. What attracts attention is that a high proportion of those surveyed did not consider Arab coordination at the Arab League level to be adequate any more to express the course to unified Arab integration or to confront the imminent matters of destiny. This does not belittle the importance of the Arab League as an integrative framework as much as it points to Arab public opinion's political desire to push forward with large steps toward the unified integration which is implied in the original foundation of the Arab League and is in the core of the goals determined by its Charter. From this, the point of view of pushing the integrative Arab coordination to its federal form and then to an incorporating unity, was supported by 44 percent of those surveyed. It was approved-with some reservations- by 38 percent, while it was refused by only 17 percent. If we take the median [as published], we notice that 83 percent

prefer progress toward realization of unity gradually on a constitutional level which emphasizes merger as the future for the unity action and its movement.

What about the timing of the unity and the current importance of the unity tendencies of Arab public opinion? The figures and percentages in Table No 3 reveal important aspects of this problem.

It is true that the Arab unity has not been realized yet, and that internal and external obstacles prevent that realization, but what is indicated by the givens, among which are the preceeding arguments, is an emphasis on a general movement and a major direction, namely, the preponderance of feelings and conviction for unity among Arab public opinion over sense of state and regional divisions and fragmentation.

In summary this means that the Arab solidarity at the level of the Arab League and summit conferences possesses an important motive power among the Arab popular bases. It can, if it wants to, realize within a relatively limited period of time a large measure of Arab integration and solidarity on the way to political, social, and economic unity for the Arab nation.

Table No 1

Variable Question	Number	Percent
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- Do you believe that there exists what is called the Arab World?

Yes	4,360	78.5
Not sure	733	13.2
No	464	8.3
Total	5,557	100.0

- Which of the following perceptions concerning the population of the Arab World is closer to you?

- Different nations and peoples with weak linkages	471	8.5
- One nation whose peoples are distinguished by certain characteristics	2,119	38.1
- One nation, even though it is separated by artificial borders	2,210	39.8
- Other perceptions	757	13.6
Total	5,557	100.0

- What are the major problems that face the Arab World?

- Arab differences and divisions	3,217	38.1
- The Arab-Israeli conflict	2,632	31.2
- Problems of socio-economic backwardness	780	9.2
- Foreign hegemony	687	8.1
- Class differences and economic suffering	512	6.1
- Absence of democratic practices and problems of intellectual and political expression	457	5.4
- Other problems	152	1.8
Total	8,437	100.0

Table No 2

Tendencies on the Most Appropriate Form of Cooperation

Among the Arab Countries (percentages)

The Most Appropriate Cooperative Form	A Merger with a Central Government	A Federation in External Affairs & Defense & Independence in Internal Affairs	Coordination Within the Framework of the Arab League	Non-cooperation; Each State Concentrates on Its Own Affairs
The State				
Jordan	34.2	59.7	4.4	1.7
Palestine	45.4	49.8	3.8	1.0
Lebanon	14.5	54.9	21.1	9.4
Kuwait	19.3	73.3	7.3	-
Qatar	22.7	68.2	9.1	-
Yemen	39.1	52.8	5.2	2.9
Egypt	13.0	59.6	23.4	3.9
Sudan	3.2	54.6	37.9	4.3
Tunisia	39.3	51.6	7.4	1.7
Morocco	20.0	57.7	18.1	4.2
Total	21.2	57.3	17.8	3.7

Table No 3

Tendencies Concerning The Timing Of Unity

(Percentages)

The State	Unity in The Short Term (5 Years)	Unity in The Middle Term (10 Years)	Unity in The Long Term (20 Years)
Jordan	45.0	36.8	18.2
Palestine	50.3	36.3	13.4
Lebanon	25.0	35.2	39.8
Yemen	43.8	43.1	13.2
Kuwait	42.6	35.1	22.3
Qatar	60.9	30.4	8.7
Egypt	36.4	41.8	21.8
Sudan	18.3	46.2	35.5
Tunisia	39.7	37.2	23.1
Morocco	31.4	36.7	31.9
Total	36.4	40.8	22.8

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EGYPT

IMPORT-FREE WEEK PLANNED

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 8 Jan 86 p 3

[Text]

THE Higher Committee for Investment and Economic Affairs, under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, Dr. Ali Lutfi, yesterday approved a suggestion to hold a "national production week" to encourage local industries and minimise reliance on import. During the week, which will be held towards the end of April, the sale of imported commodities with the exception of foodstuffs will be banned at public sector stores. Private sector stores will also be invited to take part in the week, during which no commercials whatsoever on imported items will be allowed.

The Minister of Information, Mr. Safwat el-Sherif, said that the Committee approved the draft Presidential decree to amend the articles of a former decision con-

cerning the establishment of the Exports Promotion Centre. The suggested amendment allows for increasing the revenues of the centre through empowering it to collect fees in return for the services it renders, especially studies, to various bodies, whether governmental or non-governmental.

He said that the committee endorsed a draft law which promotes the preparation of industrial and agricultural projects through the provision of equipment, whether for launching the project or renovating its equipment.

The Prime Minister, Dr. Ali Lutfi, gave directives that all ministries, together with the state's productive and services sectors, survey their needs for imported goods and materials and determine the specifications

and required quantities for the coming five years. The results will be submitted to the Ministries of Industry and Military Production to work out a plan for their provision and local production, according to the specifications agreed upon.

He also called for surveying the industrial potential of the public and private sectors, with a view to fulfilling their production requirements.

The Prime Minister also decided to hold a special session of the Committee in February to discuss joint projects and define losing companies, provided that the ministries and authorities submit studies on the conditions of these companies, including the reasons behind their losses and suggested remedies. — GSS

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CSO: 4500/60

BILHARZIA ELIMINATION DISCUSSED

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 5 Jan 86 p 3

[Text]

THE problems of Bilharzia have increased and become an even greater threat, as rats have become carriers of the disease, which increases the possibilities of man's infection. The potential effects of the spread of this disease, warrant an immediate and effective solution.

Dr. Medhat Khafagi, a professor of Tumour Surgery at the Cancer and Tumours Institutes, has developed an original solution to remedy this problem. The basis of the solution is to eliminate the small canals which now supply the fields with water and establish a system of pipes, ranging between 8 and 12 metres in size. A water pump, gauged to pump water at a certain pressure, would be installed at the beginning of each pipe. As a result of the rapid flow and pressure of the water, rats and Bilharzia worms would be unable to survive. Furthermore, the elimination of the canals would prevent their contamination by humans, another factor contributing to the spread of this disease.

The implementation of this system would also increase the amount of arable land, by virtue of the elimination of the canals and water wheels. Water wheels and canals now encompass approximately 140 feddans, worth an estimated LE 1.7 million. These funds could be used to defray the costs of the pipes and pumps for the new system.

An additional related benefit to be derived through the use of this system is that the use of cattle to turn

the water wheels will be eliminated and the animals could be used for the production of milk and meat, thereby enhancing the country's animal production.

Adoption of this system would also allow the farmers to employ modern irrigation techniques, such as the drip and spray methods, which conserve approximately 50 per cent of the water used. Furthermore, the elimination of the canal system would prevent the penetration of canal water to subterranean water sources and the great loss of water through surface evaporation. These factors would increase the amount of water available to reclaim and cultivate new areas.

Dr. Khafagi's proposal is viable and its implementation would decrease the prevalence of Bilharzia, increase the amount of cultivable land and a more efficient and effective use of both the country's animal wealth and its water resources. Relevant governmental officials should give serious consideration to this suggestion and should refine any technical areas necessary to insure its beneficial application in the pertinent areas of Egypt.

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CSO: 4500/60

SAUDI ARABIA

DEPUTY INTERIOR MINISTER ON CRIME

Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 22 Sep 85 p 11

[Interview with Dr Ibrahim al-'Awwaji, deputy interior minister and head of the Saudi delegation at the Milan meeting of the Seventh UN Conference on Combating Crime, by Yusuf al-Qadib: "We Do Not Confront Any Kind of Organized Crime, the Kingdom's Security and Criminal Systems Do Not Permit Its Spread, Severe Punishments Up to Death for Drug Smugglers"; date and place not specified]

[Text] Al-Dammam (AL-RIYAD Bureau)--The kingdom recently participated in the Seventh UN Conference on Combating Crime, which was held in the Italian city of Milan at the Milano-Ferrari conference center. The conference slogan was: Crime prevention for the sake of freedom, justice, peace and development.

Dr Ibrahim al-'Awwaji, deputy interior minister, headed the kingdom's delegation to the conference, and there were members representing the ministries of interior, labor and justice.

The conference was attended by official delegations representing 145 countries, among them the kingdom [of Saudi Arabia], at levels ranging from deputy prime minister, minister and deputy [minister], to heads of criminal and judicial security systems from various parts of the world.

With more than 2,000 experts and specialists in legal, social, economic, and political affairs participating in its activities, the conference was considered unqualifiedly the most successful of the conferences of the International Organization for Combating Crime. Indeed, from the standpoint of the depth and seriousness of its decisions, most of which were approved unanimously, it was the most important of them. A large number of delegation heads described the conference as more of a touchstone than any session of the UN General Assembly.

On this occasion, the correspondants of Arab, foreign, and international newspapers conducted many interviews with a number of delegation leaders participating in the conference. Among the most distinguished of these was Dr Ibrahim al-'Awwaji, Saudi deputy interior minister and head of the kingdom's delegation to the conference.

His excellency threw a great deal of light on many questions that were on the agenda and on the extent to which Saudi Arabia is affected by the phenomena of crime and participates in international efforts to combat this phenomenon.

In the interviews, his excellency talked about the kingdom's experience in the area. He said the following in an interview with the [United Arab] Emirates newspaper AL-BAYAN:

The Kingdom and the Combating of Crime

[Question] I do not believe that the kingdom is currently suffering from the phenomenon of organized crime, one of the central topics of the Milan session of the Seventh UN Conference on Crime Prevention. Nevertheless, [Saudi Arabia] shows great interest in conferences such as this. What is your position on the subject?

[Answer] We are not in fact facing any of the kinds of organized crime. Organized crime has a historical background. It arose in industrial society in the western countries and is therefore new to us.

This, however, does not mean that the Gulf states and the Arab states cannot confront the problem. In spite of the fact that this kind of crime does not exist among us, we hope to benefit by becoming acquainted with the experiences of other countries with it. By various social and governmental means, we hope to be able to prevent its advent.

As for Saudi Arabia specifically, its security and criminal system does not allow the spread of such phenomena. Nevertheless, our acquaintance with the experiences of countries that do suffer from this problem does not come exclusively through this conference. It comes also through all our activities, relations, links, meetings, and follow-up. Whether it be a question of organized crime or of other major crimes, such as drug cases, we play an active role in the international area in order to benefit from the experiences of other countries and from the methods they use to confront these phenomena. This is in order not to be taken by surprise or be bewildered by these phenomena.

Saudi Arabia, the Arab Gulf countries, and all countries of the world have become part of international society because of contact and communication, broad economic movement, and human and commercial exchange. In such an international situation, it becomes possible for anything of this sort to happen.

The Volume of Drug Crimes in the Kingdom

[Question] What is the volume of drug crimes in Saudi Arabia?

[Answer] There exists in the kingdom no abnormal phenomenon. The kingdom may perhaps have cases that resemble other existing cases; these, however, are not of the sort called "hard drugs." Instead, they are milder kinds,

such as seconal pills and (kabudajil) [captagon?]. These are some of the milder kinds that are easily smuggled and brought into the kingdom. But the kingdom is rigorously applying and enforcing its law against the criminal class, especially against groups that play a role in smuggling drugs. It imposes a severe punishment on smugglers, sometimes extending to the death penalty. The latter is a punishment necessitated by the general welfare of society. The drug smuggler is not like any other smuggler; he plays a role in killing hundreds of people and families. In truth, he is a real criminal, one who plays a role in the destruction of society.

The Kingdom's Stand on Terrorism

[Question] As one of the phenomena of organized crime, terrorism is a problem that stimulated sharp discussion within the conference. Differences in point of view became evident in the definition of a terrorist and in the manner of confronting terrorist actions. What is the Saudi delegation's stand on the question?

[Answer] The truth is that the definition is made from a political point of view and from the point of view of any person's affiliation to any particular group. The debate about a definition is a political debate, not a semantic or linguistic one. There are some countries that consider the political act to be terrorism, while others consider it an act of struggle from freedom; and this or that definition may change from time to time as a result of change in the government or a shift in policy. Thus, some countries discuss the issues from a political perspective, not scientifically. Of course, terrorism directed against an innocent man, whether its goals be political or nonpolitical, is to be rejected. This is a matter on which there is no disagreement.

As for terrorism against governments, it depends on whether.... Israel, I mean, is a state that arose on the basis of terrorism and that is using terrorism against the Palestinian people, a "terrorist people" who are trying to regain their land or to live on it. This example, I think, is the greatest proof and a convincing answer to the question.

[Question] In spite of this, there were measures proposed and submitted to the conference concerning the combating of terrorism.

[Answer] No, because the conference is a UN conference, the proposals submitted to it were amended so that they no longer explicitly referred to political acts. The final wording of the proposal was drawn up in such a way as to satisfy all the delegations in attendance. It is a call for the combatting of the terrorism that affects citizens, wherever they are. Anything related to the political aspects was kept out of the wording.

[Question] What about economic crime in Saudi Arabia?

[Answer] We have no economic crime in the sense in which the western nations are confronted by it. Economic crime in their sense is crime with a major link to organized crime. In the kingdom, the registering of companies is subject to very precise regulations. Furthermore, every foreign company operating within the territory of the kingdom is subject to strict supervision. A few cases of illegitimate paper companies have indeed appeared among us; but they are a few cases and the problem of them is finished.

SAUDI ARABIA

ROLE OF NATIONAL GUARD DISCUSSED

Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 23 Sep 85 p 23

[Article by Muhammad al-Nawfal: "National Guard's Course over 23 Years, Guard's Cultural Role Greater Than Its Military Role, Guard Members Soon To Mark Opening of New Housing Projects"]

[Text] During a lifetime approaching a quarter of a century, the National Guard has made its cultural presence felt in various areas among the country's many institutions. It has gone beyond its military role to carry out roles in the cultural structure that is rising under wise leadership. Thus it was described by His Highness Prince Badr ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy head of the National Guard, who said: "The National Guard is more comprehensive than a merely military organization. It goes beyond that to be one of civilization."

On this basis, the National Guard is continuing its active role on the road of cultural advance being traveled by the pure land of progress [Saudi Arabia] in accordance with the teachings of the Islamic faith, a path of civilization which the kingdom of Saudi Arabia is living with the resoluteness of the believer who is true to his religion, king, and homeland.

In 1384 A.H. [1964/5], his majesty the king, supreme commander of the armed forces, saw that many things had become new. He saw that this called for a review of all aspects of the organization of the National Guard at that time, so that it might better proceed with its services to the interests of the kingdom and perform a better and greater role.

To carry out this mission, the late king decided in 1384 A.H. [1964/5] that His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz should be appointed head of the National Guard. He was to move forward with the steps of a believer true to his faith, country, and king toward every sort of advancement on account of the great need for the social and other services offered by the National Guard.

On 13 Dhu al-Qa'dah 1387 [12 February 1968], the National Guard was fortunate to be joined by another effective member to stand side by side with his brother, 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz, namely His Highness Prince Badr ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz, who participated through his effort, diligence and

perservance in the stages of giving and building through which this advancing institution of civilization was passing.

After assuming leadership of the guard, Prince 'Abdallah formed technical committees and more than one working group. He also had recourse to various sorts of highly specialized technical information. When his highness judged these studies ready, and after exhaustive follow-up, he traced out many decisions to move the guard forward on a clear course. These decisions included:

- clarification of the National Guard's guiding concept
- complete and continuing reorganization vertically and horizontally
- building of a modern military force
- a cultural role for the National Guard

In accordance with these broad outlines, the new features of the National Guard made their appearance, and from them were derived the new forms that replaced the old structures.

Development Agreement

Eager, as we have indicated, to modernize the National Guard so as to insure its performance of its religious and patriotic duty, His Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and head of the National Guard, signed the agreement of 1394 A.H. [1974/5] with the American government to develop the units of the National Guard and turn them into armed detachments using in their operations weapons of various calibres, including an antitank system and a 150 mm howitzer battery, among other things. This agreement bore fruit in the tangible progress witnessed by the installations of the National Guard.

National Guard Schools

The first of the steps taken by his highness was a concern for knowledge as a weapon against ignorance and backwardness. Thus, the first of his highness' achievements came in the establishment of the National Guard military and technical schools in 1384 A.H. [1964/5]. At that time, the schools began with a number of wings, represented by the missile wing, the signal wing and the mechanics wing. In 1386 A.H. [1966/7], the Officers' Candidate Corps was added. These schools then developed so that they numbered in the dozens.

Associates of the guard or other citizens can profit from the scientific and intellectual offerings made available by the guard, and they can do so in an up-to-date way consonant with the circumstances of their work and abilities. As a result, the guard member or other person who is given the opportunity comes to know his environment, as a believer should. Thus, these educational services have contributed to raising [guard members] to the level of their forerunners, the people of developed countries with an ancient march of civilization.

The Administration of Education and Instruction

Education and instruction in the guard have taken place within the guard's course of progress and advancement, a course which--thanks to the efforts of those who work toward it--has contributed, since the establishment of a General Administration of Education and Instruction to supervise the acquisition of knowledge and intellectual nourishment, to raising the level of guard members and to general care for their many educational and scientific activities. This administration began as an educational wing within the schools of the National Guard. Then it developed into a school of education and expanded. This administration has developed, and its educational domain has expanded to include more than 40 schools for adult education and the eradication of illiteracy, 21 intermediate schools, and 7 secondary schools. It encourages the guard to spread knowledge among its members and among others by providing material and moral incentives, as represented by the following payments:

- 200 riyals a month to primary certificate students,
- 250 riyals a month to intermediate certificate students,
- 300 riyals a month to secondary certificate students.

Each student who earns the primary certificate is given a one-time payment of 500 riyals. As a moral incentive, priority in promotion to a higher rank is granted to whoever acquires an educational credential beyond that of his colleagues.

Overtaking Illiteracy

The guard's educational and instructional efforts do not end with the dissemination of knowledge and opening of schools. As its general director of education and instruction says, they extend to pursuing and eliminating illiteracy in its cradle, whatever the cost. The guard has traveled a long way, achieving outstanding successes to which world educational organizations have attested.

Schools for Children

Affiliates of the guard are looking forward with patience and joy to the announcement that the housing project has been completed. Guard children will then be able to enjoy the benevolent efforts which, it is expected, will shortly come to fruition, God willing.

Among these housing facilities and projects is the construction of schools for guard members' sons and daughters, in whatever stage of general education they may be. The number of schools within these huge housing projects is 122, distributed as follows:

- 29 schools for children, 60 primary schools for boys and girls, 19 middle schools, as well as 14 middle schools [as printed]. Planned capacity is to reach approximately 42,966 students of both sexes.

Housing Project

His highness has concentrated the major part of his interest on offering optimal services to affiliates of the guard and to providing them with full health and educational opportunities. Out of the interests of his highness the crown prince, who is deputy prime minister and head of the National Guard, came the idea of establishing an ambitious project to insure comfortable housing for the military men who are affiliated with the National Guard--officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers--in the various parts of the country. His highness has signed 10 contracts with a number of local and international companies in this field for the construction of these projects, which are to cost 8.708 billion Saudi riyals. These projects will soon play a role in providing better service to all members of the guard in a manner that conforms to the guard's cultural capacities and expectations.

King Khalid Military College

Under the sponsorship of his majesty the king, at the end of last academic year, 1405 A.H. [1984/5], King Khalid College presented its first graduating class to the nation to assume positions after having been given advanced academic training in accordance with the most modern cultural methods invented during our present age.

The establishment of this college comes as a response to a strong need caused by the kingdom's advancement in its various areas of development.

A decree has been issued appointing His Royal Highness Colonel Mut'ib ibn 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz director of the college. His highness previously held the post of commander of the military school for graduating National Guard officers. The college is patterned after the military academies prevalent in major cities of the developed world, but it takes into account the difference of religious doctrine and the faith in God which distinguishes our educational institutions and our way of life, which is based on this wise pattern from which every citizen benefits.

The Guard and National Partnerships

As indicated previously, the National Guard plays the role of a cultural organization in various areas, and this guarantees that it offers a valuable contribution to the nation. Among other things, it participates by serving citizens at societal and Islamic occasions, national conferences, celebrations, and occasions, as well as in such state-organized weeks as Traffic Week, Sanitation Week and Book Week. It also serves at symposia and at the pilgrimage.

The National Guard mobilizes many of its capacities in order to offer an active contribution to participants in the pilgrimage. It joins with the health services in providing many medical centers at the sites of religious ceremonies. It sets up a full hospital, emergency units, ambulances and mobile clinics.

The guard also participates in a religious information unit to direct pilgrims and to respond to their questions and religious concerns. This is in addition to the symposia and lectures given for instruction and guidance by religious scholars, in collaboration with the departments of scientific studies, Islamic legal opinion, missionary activity and guidance, together with the Islamic Instruction Organization at the pilgrimage.

All of this is in addition to numerous [other] ways of participation by the guard during the days of the pilgrimage.

Health Services in the Guard

Health care services in the guard have developed beyond expectations. To begin with, there has been continual expansion in the construction of clinics, medical centers and comprehensive clinics to provide initial preventative and therapeutic health care for all members, their families, and for citizens living near National Guard concentrations within cities. The number of these has reached 30 fully equipped centers, serving villages, settlements and the surrounding or nearby residential concentrations. They are of special benefit to those places where medical services are not to be found.

1,000 Beds; the Next Step at al-Dammam

Following the opening of King Fahd Hospital, the number of beds has reached 1,000, offering all in-bed services to patients. This is in addition to what is offered by the clinics located within King Khalid Hospital and King Fahd Hospital, or in external clinics. These hospitals are a prelude to future steps in the next health plan to offer more advanced health service. The number of beds is scheduled afterwards to jump to 2,200, and there will be a third hospital, located at al-Dammam and similar to the ones in Jeddah and Riyadh.

12937/12899

CSO: 4404/123

SABIC PROJECTS, PLANS REVIEWED

Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 18 Sep 85 p 12

[Article by Fahd al-Sulaymani: "Industry Minister: SABIC Has 13 Complexes at Production Level in the Country; 2d Generation of Them Inaugurated for Expansion of Industrial Base and Vertical Integration; Marketing Programs"]

[Text] His Excellency Engineer 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Zamil, minister of industry and electricity, and chairman of the board of the Saudi Basic Industries Company (SABIC), praised the level that SABIC has reached.

His excellency stated that during its 8 years of life, SABIC has been able to establish 13 high production and world technology level industrial complexes within the country, with 9 of them having already reached the production stage.

His excellency pointed out what has already been achieved in record time during the life of the company in three main fields: implementation, training, and marketing in some countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council. [The company] has allowed citizens of the latter countries to participate in its capital. At the same time, its role is developing through planning and implementation, and its contribution is crystallizing through movement in the areas of industrial coordination and integration in the Gulf market and in the areas of unification of efforts and positions with regard to other markets.

The vice-chairman of the board, Mr Ibrahim ibn Salamah, also reviewed the company's achievements and efforts.

He said that in the context of implementing the next phase of its second-generation industries, SABIC had by the middle of this year finished preparing its 5-year plan for 1405-1410 A.H. [1984/5-1989/90]. Al-Zamil mentioned that SABIC this year began preparing to implement the second generation of its industries within the next 5-year plan, which extends from 1405 to 1410 A.H.

This generation will include 14 new industrial complexes, most of them complementing the first-generation industries. All of them will expand the country's industrial base, develop lines of vertical integration in

local production, and pave the way for increased participation by private capital both by influencing and being influenced in the direction of formation of the clearest features of industrial society.

He said: SABIC has participated in a number of petrochemical and mining industries. The plan includes five programs, the capital investment of which is estimated at about 16 billion riyals. Beside the training, research, and technical development components, there are included a number of complexes for the production of fertilizers, metals, plastic and petrochemicals, with an annual capacity totaling about 3.75 million tons of various products.

The report mentioned that capital investments for first-generation industries amounted to about 38 billion riyals. Some of these are almost at maturity. The total of such investments in SABIC through the year 1410 A.H. [1989/90] will reach about 54 billion riyals. The number of Saudi workers in the factories is 3,280 out of a total of 6,953 workers.

He mentioned that five companies--Ibn Sina, Sadaf, Kemya, Yanpet, and Gas--have entered the production phase ahead of schedule.

Also, SABIC has signed a number of long- and medium-term marketing agreements.

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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

DUBAYY'S IMPORTING ACTIVITY EXAMINED

Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 19 Oct 85 p 2

[Article by Husayn Anwar]

[Text] Dubayy's imports of consumer goods have increased during past years from only 50 percent in 1979 to about 57 percent in the past year, and during these years the increase has been continuous, since it was 51 percent in 1980, then 53.3 percent in 1981, 53.3 percent in 1982, and 56.7 percent in 1983.

Sources of Dubayy's chamber of commerce and industry indicate that the value of consumer goods imported by Dubayy during this period was, sequentially, 8.4 billion dirhams, then 9.9 billion, 10.4 billion, 10 billion, 11 billion, and finally 9.8 billion in 1984.

Capital goods come in second with respect to imports, according to the economic apportionment that they have. They have suffered from a continuous decline in value and percentage during this period, in contrast to consumer goods. That is because of a decline in economic activity during the period since 1980, and because of a tendency towards rationalization of expenditures and a lack of respect by investors for beginning new projects following the period of great prosperity that preceeded this one since the mid seventies.

The percentage of imports of capital goods reached 31.2 percent in 1979, 29.4 percent in 1980, 27.3 percent in 1981, and 31 percent in 1983. Then it fell to 27.4 percent in 1983 and 26.7 percent in 1984. The value of these imports also fell, to 4.5 billion dirhams at the end of the period, after having been 5.2 billion in 1979 and 5.7 billion in 1980.

As for intermediate goods, they experienced a clear rise at the beginning of this period, only to have their percentage fall afterwards. After having been only 18 percent in 1979, it rose to 19.4 percent in both 1980 and 1981, and fell sharply to 15.6 percent in 1982, 15.9 percent in 1983, and 16.4 percent in 1984. With respect to value, the drop is greater, for after imports of intermediate goods (raw materials and partially manufactured goods that are used as primary materials in various industries) had been about 3.8 billion dirhams in 1980 and 1981, they fell to 3.1 billion in 1983 and 2.8 billion dirhams in 1984.

Dubayy's chamber explained that among the 115 states from which the emirates import goods through Dubayy, there are four large ones. They are, in sequence, Japan (3.5 billion dirhams), America (2 billion), Britain (1.6 billion) and West Germany (1 billion dirhams). Thus these states by themselves control 47 percent of total imports, which during the past year were 17.2 billion dirhams.

12547/9738

CSO: 4404/149

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT REVIEWED

Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 19 Oct 85 p 17

[Article by Nahid Munir al-Rayyis]

[Text] Although the activity of the agricultural and fishing sector in the United Arab Emirates is extremely slight compared to the rest of the economic sectors, since it does not produce more than 0.9 percent of total commercial production, interest in it has outweighed its economic importance, and the thoughts of those concerned have turned to the social and political aspects pertaining to it. Working on the land is a vital part of the concept of establishing a nation, and local food security depends on local agricultural products.

The fact is that the emirates' geographical position and soil and climate conditions limit aspirations, at least for the time being. The area of land originally good for cultivation does not exceed 60,000 hectares; moreover, the entire region lies within the region of the tropical, desert climate of the Arabian peninsula where the average rainfall does not exceed 10 mm per year, and the soils in most areas consist of sand dunes and sandy ground, and in fewer areas of stony ground, sand, and alluvial deposits. Moreover, the temperature varies greatly between summer and winter, and night and day, though on the whole the weather is extremely hot in relation to agriculture, since in the summer the temperature gets up to 46 degrees Centigrade, and in winter it only rarely falls below 10 degrees. Add to that the fact that the meager rainy season is characterized by its short duration, for almost all the rain falls within the period between November and February.

These are the exemplary problems that beset agriculture in desert countries, and it might be impossible to overcome them, were it not for the availability of cheap solar energy. It can be brought under control for wide-scale use in agriculture, whether for purposes of desalinating water, pumping it, or setting up appropriate air conditioning systems on lands covered with plastic tents. These great hopes are brought on by the fact that using solar energy for agricultural purposes is something that has been frequently done in more than one Asian and African country. Its uses will expand little by little in various fields, and it will become economically cheaper and technologically easier with the passage of time. Solar energy appears to

be highly appropriate for use in agriculture in countries such as the United Arab Emirates that lie within the belt where the sun's rays are strong almost throughout the year. Therefore, equipping and preparing Arab scientific and technical cadres today for a task that is anticipated tomorrow, the establishment of solar energy installations that will have various uses in the countryside, is considered to be a step at the core of agricultural development plans.

Groundwork and Bases for the Future

In any case, it can be said that in previous years, the Emirates have planned broad measures in the area of establishing a good groundwork for agricultural development. The country has been divided into five topographical groups: the desert lands, the al-Batinah coast, the mountain chain, the stoney plains and the oases. It has also been divided into four agricultural geographic regions which are: the eastern region, the southern region, the northern region, and the central region. The largest of these is the northern region with an area of 7,821 hectares, while the total arable area of the four regions is more than 21,554 hectares.

In fact, there has been a constant increase in cultivated areas. Between 1974 and 1978 an increase of 7,000 hectares was recorded, and that is not counting previous increases, the size of which we may be able to get an idea of if we remember that up until 1968, cultivated areas did not exceed 2,500 hectares! The expansion has also included the woodlands sector.

Measures to support and encourage the agricultural sector in the Emirates have diversified and multiplied. They do not stop at offering all sorts of loans and production requirements and digging wells and plowing for free, but they extend to distributing free agricultural land itself, and to giving attention to the marketing of crops and to buying the produce in some regions, as is the case in the al-'Ayn region. The state has also embarked on establishing a number of agricultural extension projects, such as the model farm for citrus, mango, and date production in Daba in the eastern region, project to produce and study cereals and vegetables in al-Haw'ah, and farms for dates, clover, and other things. Perhaps more important than what is in these projects is the fact that they are experimental stations in which studies are carried out, naturally, on which varieties are most suited to the environment, along with using modern machinery and equipment for irrigation, plowing, fertilization, and harvesting.

Defense Against Desertification

Great distances still lie before agricultural development. Doubtless the foremost ambition of those concerned is to cultivate the remaining areas that are in fact good for farming. That area exceeds that total area that has been cultivated so far. Perhaps the existence of the research and development foundation that we have referred to just now will be an effective factor in helping to achieve this foremost ambition.

Upon the shoulders of the concerned parties falls the critical responsibility of combatting desertification. The Arab Emirates are among the Arab states where this phenomenon represents a real danger to agricultural development. Excessive grazing in some regions has caused a complete removal of the plant cover, and the acacia and prosopis woodlands have died out, except for a few remaining in some valleys and at the feet of sand dunes, and the pastures have turned into dry desert. There are other well-known causes of desertification which are present in force in the Emirates. One of the most important is the movement of sand with the prevailing winds and its encroachment upon agricultural regions, as is the case between Abu Dhabi and al-'Ayn, around Dubayy, near al-Shariqah airport, and in the al-Khabb region. Another is the phenomenon of [soil] salinization, which in most cases results from using saline water for irrigation. The Emirates share these phenomena with other Arab regions that are exposed to the same dangers, such as Libya, Egypt, Syria, Iraq, and Jordan. Because of that, the turning of agricultural policies towards reforestation and establishment of woodland trees in selected areas was not just a beautification activity; rather it is a defensive effort in the interest of soil fertility, and to resist the desert's assault on agricultural regions. The area of regions planted to forests must have increased a lot over the 15,000 hectares which was the area recorded up to 1979.

However, treating the problem of desertification requires other diverse measures, including control of grazing and the promotion of crop rotation, which would help to preserve the fertility of the soil, using among other things natural fertilizers that would help to improve soil structure. Perhaps the most important measure, and the most beneficial in the long run, would be to replant the best types of natural vegetation that the environment produced previously "through human effort in the beginning" and to grow it once again in areas close to cultivated areas, and thence to provide suitable conditions overall for it to grow and multiply naturally by itself.

Statistics and Research

So that this agricultural awakening may continue and advance forward, it is necessary that the basic elements of scientific research, which depend first and foremost on adequate statistical reports, be carried out. In the Gulf regions generally, there are statistics that are lacking or incomplete with respect to soils, charts of wild plants, water, and weather. Therefore, one of the most important recommendations of the seventh conference of Arab ministers of agriculture of the Gulf states and the Arabian peninsula held in Bahrain in 1982 concerned the need to set up a network of water observation stations, and the conference's general secretariat was given the task of collecting reports, studies, and research results relating to agricultural and water projects, and of keeping them at the conference's general secretariat as an information bank. At that time, the general secretariat was also given the task of preparing an integrative study of the plan to produce improved seed of wheat, barley, corn, millet, clover, tomato, and potato crops. A special statement was issued concerning the need to get separate information about experiences, technical experts, research, and training centers and their programs.

All that requires a constant increase in agricultural development budgets, since it is evident in most cases that the amounts earmarked for agriculture does not correspond to what is earmarked for many other items in the area of expenditure and investment, even though the nutritional gap in the Emirates, as in the rest of the Arab countries, widens year after year, and the removal of food facing food-exporting states poses further dangers. While agriculture may not be a profitable investment in the short term, it is indispensable in the long run. The day will come when future generations will praise their fathers for every foot of cultivated land and every green expanse.

Special care must be given to the price policies made with respect to local agricultural production. Competition with imported agricultural produce is of course impossible, and even though the Emirates might produce a surplus of diverse vegetables during the winter, it imports more than 12,000 tons of vegetables a year "including the winter season." This subjects local products to competition that local producers cannot go up against, which frustrates producers, especially the small ones, and forces them to leave for other jobs, and in that lies a great loss to the very foundation of the efforts towards agricultural development.

Agriculture of Ra's al-Khaymah

Since agricultural production concentrates on the production of fruits and vegetables, it is necessary to work towards diversifying it, since cereals hold a pre-eminent position among crops that achieve food security.

Attention to agriculture must be directed in particular to the Emirate of Ra's al-Khaymah, which is practically a miniature bread-basket for the Emirates. It produces more than half the total production of fruits and vegetables in the state. Attention to agriculture in it is required primarily for this reason, not to mention the fact that success of an agricultural plan demands concentrating on an area in which the meaning of a large holding is embodied, including what that means in terms of ease of operation, along with benefitting from the advantages of large production.

As long as the stage is not reached in which water does not constitute an obstacle worth mentioning by means of the economical desalinization of sea water using solar energy "when it becomes cheap," underground water must be conserved and put to the best use possible. It has been seen in the past decade that there has been excessive consumption of water resources in the state, which in some places has led to the exhaustion of underground water, and in others it has caused it to run short and become saline and caused a deterioration in its quality.

Among the foundations that have been established and that still need additional effort are the following: making agricultural services generally available so that they properly reach the various sectors of farmers, the great majority of whom are illiterate and should be addressed in ways that they can understand. Finally, there is attending to the training of national technical

cadres that will see a decisive expansion such as the country has not seen before. It will not be limited just to planting areas suited to cultivation, but it will be extended to reclaiming new lands, where nobody thought a green stem could grow.

12547/9738

CSO: 4404/149

AFGHANISTAN

LITERACY CAMPAIGN BECOMES COUNTRYWIDE

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 6 Nov 85 p 4

[Text] Provinces (BIA)--The literacy campaign in the DRA has now transformed into a countrywide movement and the process gains momentum. An ever-increasing number of our people who had been deprived of the blessing of literacy because of the obscurantist policies of the past regimes enroll in literacy courses opened all over the country in the remotest villages, detachments of the armed forces, institutions and State departments.

Recently 15 literacy courses with 299 attendants have been set up in Sar-e-Pul district, Suzma Qala subdistrict and Sange Charak district of Jauzjan province.

Another 15 literacy courses with 355 students have started functioning in Spinzar Company, banks, municipality, irrigation project of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reforms, settlements of Ferozkohi and Hindu community of Kunduz city.

One literacy course has been set up in Ezat Khel Bazaar related to Gulbahar Textile Mill, in Kapisa province with 38 attendants.

The sources concerned with the literacy campaign in Jauzjan, Kunduz and Kapisa provinces reported that currently 513 literacy courses with 10,550 attendants in Jauzjan, 392 courses with more than 6,680 attendants in Kunduz provinces are functioning. During the current year another 106 literacy courses with over 2,240 attendants have been established in various sections of Gulbahar Textile Mill, government departments, social organizations and Tsarendoy (people's police) Command of Kapisa province.

According to another report a session was held recently in Kandahar city to assess the activities of the literacy campaign directorate in Kandahar province.

In the session a report on the activities of the institutions and state departments concerning the extension of literacy courses in the seven months of the current year in that province was presented.

The report in part says that currently 599 literacy courses are functioning in Kandahar province in which 7,048 working people of the province are engaged acquire literacy.

The courses are being taught by 568 official, honorary and contract-based teachers.

Likewise, during the first quarter of the current year another 52 courses have been set up in the related regions of that province in which 371 attendants are learning literacy.

During the current year 282 persons have been graduated from literacy courses.

/9317

CSO: 4600/174

AFGHANISTAN

LITERACY TEACHERS FAMILIARIZED WITH 'NEW' METHODS

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 11 Nov 85 p 4

[Text] Kabul (BIA)--In the light of the resolution of the Politburo of the PDPA CC on the country-wide eradication of illiteracy a five-day-long orientation seminar of the literacy teachers of the Army has been opened here yesterday. The purpose of the seminar was to familiarise the teachers with the new methods of literacy teaching.

In the seminar 130 responsible officials of the literacy campaign will learn new methods of teaching the illiterate.

The army units and detachments not only train then soldiers to heroically defend the gains of the April Revolution (1978), but also, as a grand school of literacy, they have enrolled the soldiers, deprived of the blessing of literacy, in many literacy courses. Thus, upon termination of their sacred service in the army, they will return to their families not only with their demobilization cards but also with certificates of literacy.

Right now, 2,917 literacy courses are being run in the army units and detachments.

The literacy campaign in the army is being carried out successfully and in a systematic way. All kinds of required facilities of the literacy attendants are being provided for them, even in the remotest units and detachments. For example, in the years 1984 and 1985, about 122,000 notebooks, 600 blackboards, 3,854 literacy text journals, 2,915 literacy magazines and other facilities have been supplied to the army. In order to elevate the level of scientific backgrounds of the literacy teachers and executives of the Army, methodic courses and seminars are being consistently held in which the literacy officials in charge familiarize themselves with the new methods of literacy teaching.

In view of this fact, so far, ten methodic courses have been set up in which the necessary teaching materials have been put at the disposal of the literacy responsible officials.

Since the victory of the April Revolution, tens of thousands of soldiers have become literate in these courses.

Literacy programmes are being scrutinised in the sessions of the leading committees, primary party and youth organisations. The organisations have always actively played their roles in the eradication of illiteracy in the country.

/9317

CSO: 4600/174

AFGHANISTAN

HUNDREDS OF LITERACY COURSES FUNCTIONING IN BALKH

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 4 Nov 85 p 4

[Text] In line with Decree No 28 of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, the literacy movement is gaining momentum all over the country.

Literacy, being a sacred ideal of the revolution opens its way to the remotest areas in the capital and provinces of the country and our countrymen enjoy the advantage of literacy.

Remarkable gains have been achieved in the sphere of literacy in Balkh province. As a whole, 660 literacy courses are functioning in Balkh province. The courses are composed by 90 percent of adults.

The courses are taught by 498 official, contract-based and volunteer teachers. The number of students in these courses reaches over 12,960.

A programme of crash work was carried out by the provincial party committee aimed at attracting the people to literacy courses. The role of social organisations, trade unions and the WDOA is praiseworthy in this respect.

Moreover, they take an active part in organising the individuals in national and tribal jirgahs (councils).

In their turn the state departments and units of the armed forces have carried out noticeable services in this regard. The role and authority of the political instructors who voluntarily fulfill this honourable task of the army unit, is much higher.

The teachers and students of the high schools play a decisive role in making the people literate.

Last year 127 people capable of reading and writing graduated from the literacy courses.

/9317
CSO: 4600/174

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

PAKTIA LITERACY COURSES--Gardaiz (BIA)--More than 3,600 persons are studying in 224 literacy courses in the centre and related areas of Paktia province. Out of this number 50 literacy courses are active in the districts of Ahmad Khel, Jaji, Samkani, Zurmat and Sayed Karam in which 577 persons have enrolled. Likewise, 10 literacy courses have been established for housewives in the villages of the province in which 290 illiterate girls and women are busy in learning with full interest and enthusiasm. During the 7 months of the current year (begun March 21, 1985) some 28 literacy courses have newly been established in related areas of the province in which over 904 persons have enrolled and follow their lessons in the courses. Similarly, the housewives courses are being taught by 8 girls voluntarily. [Text] [Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 12 Nov 85 p 4] /9317

CSO: 4600/174

BANGLADESH

EDITORIAL EXAMINES INDIA'S JOINT VENTURE PROPOSAL

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 25 Nov 85 p 5

[Editorial]

[Text]

Bangladesh continues to have adverse balances of trade for the last few years. It is so despite an increase in export earnings. Export in 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84 is reported at Taka 12,387 million, Taka 18,015 million and Taka 20,136 million. As against that, import is reported to be worth Taka 38,729 million, Taka 45,265 million and Taka 50,874 million respectively over the same years. And the trend is almost uniform for our trade with all regions and countries except for the central and south American countries, from which import is relatively insignificant. Import from neighbouring India is over three times the export. The negative balance stands at Taka 1147 million, Taka 1283 million for 1982-83 and 1983-84 and Taka 1110 million for nine months during 1984-85.

This indicates that Bangladesh has not many items to export. The traditional major export items are jute, tea and leather, and the new entrant is manpower. It has not been possible to diversify our exports in spite of efforts made over the years. The upcoming garment subsector has yet to get its due share in the export market and hence its contributions remains peripheral. This is so in spite of the fact that Bangladesh has cheap labour and some renewable resources like jute and tea as raw materials for production of exportable items. The use of gas as a raw material for exportables is also yet to get off the ground.

In the context of such an adverse trade balance, Bangladesh has to look for import substitution as a measure for reducing import cost. She has also to augment export to countries with which an adverse trade balance persists. In either way, Bangladesh has to consider the human re-

sources and the skill level of the workforce as the mainstay of the economy. And human resources in this country remain unutilized largely due to lack of capital, technology and know-how. Like all other developing countries Bangladesh has to gain support of countries which have both capital and technology as well as a built-in market for given products.

The offer of the Indian trade delegation to enter into a joint venture agreement with Bangladesh has to be examined in the overall perspective of balance of trade. India has yet to augment her import from Bangladesh and that mainly due to the fact that, for major export items like jute and tea, these two countries are on a competitive footing. India has however reportedly made progress in the field of technology and there is possibility of utilizing them for production of textile, sugar, fertilizer, paper and the like.

Except for paper, however, demand for Bangladesh products in India is rather limited. Even if some joint venture agreement is entered into, the products may not have easy access to India, unless the authorities there relax their restrictions. The prospect of capitalizing on the relatively cheap labour of Bangladesh through joint venture agreement is further circumscribed by the restrictive provisions of the central bank in India. Exporters to India find it difficult to get payment in foreign exchange and it may as well influence the inflow of technology and capital into Bangladesh, if currently used regulations persist.

India has yet to get a dependable export market for her own products in various regions. Joint venture agreements should not be used only as a mechanism to use the relatively sheltered market of Bangladesh as the outlet of products. The Indian restrictions on import being all pervasive one would wonder if products of joint venture projects will have an easy access to the otherwise big market in India. The offer of the visiting Indian trade delegation has therefore to be examined in depth and in different perspectives before a positive response could be made.

To encourage foreign investors Bangladesh has to adopt legislative measures for safety of investment. Joint venture entrepreneurs should also be allowed to import machinery and raw materials without taxes to keep the cost of production low. They should also get an assured market for their products through import restrictions on items that are produced by those projects. In other words, the declared intent for joint ventures and export promotion should be followed up with appropriate policies and actions if the economy is to turn the corner.

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BANGLADESH

IMPROVEMENT IN SOVIET-BANGLADESH TRADE NOTED

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 29 Nov 85 p 1

[Text] Trade between Bangladesh and the Soviet Union, which suffered a setback in the recent past as Moscow tried to match its purchases from and exports to this country, seems to be picking up lately.

The trade setback with the Soviet Union had, however, nothing to do with the two countries' present political relations. It mostly resulted because of Dhaka's apparent reluctance to buy more goods from the Soviet Union under barter agreement despite a substantial trade surplus (14.33 million sterling) in favour of this country at the end of the 13th trade protocol which ended last year. The signing of the 14th trade protocol was delayed slightly following the expulsion of several Soviet diplomats from Bangladesh and was finally signed in April 1985 for exchanging goods worth 30 million sterling each way.

Dhaka's reluctance to buy certain goods from the Soviet Union was mainly due to price differences with other suppliers. For example, Soviet price for high speed diesel (HSD) was 242 US dollars per metric while the Singapore spot price at that time was 225 dollars or 7.1 percent lower per ton. However, the Soviet HSD could be imported under barter without involving any cash fund while import from Singapore or any other source would involve cash. Besides, such imports are usually made under Wage Earners Scheme and the fund for the purpose would have to be purchased from the market at 12 percent to 15 percent premium. Here lies the relative advantage of buying, at least, this particular commodity at a slightly higher than the international market price.

An informed source told this correspondent that apart from supplying such items as HSD, the Soviet Union is also one of the largest buyers of raw jute, jutegoods and tea from Bangladesh. In fact, says he, because of Bangladesh's reluctance to buy more goods from the Soviet Union, export of raw jute to that country has not picked up at a time when increased production of raw jute in all the producing countries has created a glut and the prices have gone down.

The source said: "If we could stick to our programme of buying HSD and raw cotton earlier in July-August, we would have surely sold 15,000-20,000 tons of raw jute." The Soviet cotton is one of the finest, but Bangladeshi mills find it difficult to use it for technical reasons.

However, the recent signing of agreements by Bangladesh to buy 15,000 metric tons of sugar in addition to 10,000 tons which has just arrived, 40,000 tons of HSD-20,000 tons to be shipped by December and the balance early next year, 4,000 tons of raw cotton and 20,000 tons of cement has somewhat improved the situation. According to an informed source, by January next when all these commodities will have been shipped, Bangladesh's surplus trade balance with the Soviet Union should be reduced to about 2 to 3 million from the present level of over 17 million pound sterling.

In addition to barter trade agreement, the Soviet Union also buys goods worth about 10 million pound sterling against the repayment of Soviet credits annually. They are known to be buying raw jute worth 9 million pound sterling this year under this credit repayment arrangements. The Soviet Union is also buying substantial quantity of jute carpets under the 14th barter protocol.

The 15th barter protocol is expected to be signed in early next year in Moscow.

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CSO: 4600/1254

BANGLADESH

COMMERCE MINISTER'S SPEECH TO GATT SESSION REPORTED

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 29 Nov 85 pp 1, 10

[Text] Mr A.B.M. Ghulam Mostafa, Secretary Ministry of Commerce and leader of the Bangladesh delegation to the forty-first session of the GATT contracting parties being held in Geneva made a strong plea for removal of all protectionist barriers in international trade preservation of the open multilateral trading system by restoring normalcy and symmetry in trade relations between developed and developing countries and by bringing about genuine trade liberalization, reports BSS.

He was addressing the annual session of the GATT contracting parties on the activities of GATT, according to an official handout in Dhaka on Thursday.

The Commerce Secretary recalled the GATT ministerial declaration of 1982 which had clearly undertaken a commitment to further facilitate trade of the least developed countries through duty and quota free access to the products of these countries. He invited the developed countries to redeem their solemn pledge given at the level of Ministers in 1982 to the least developed countries like Bangladesh and remove all remaining obstacles affecting the exports of these countries. He also gave his full support to the 7-point proposal put forward by ambassador Huslid of Norway.

He dwelt at length on the increasingly restrictive measures being undertaken by a number of developed countries against exports of items like textiles and clothing from the least developed countries.

He regretted that important developed market economy countries had been applying harsh restrictive measures against export of textiles and clothing even from least developed countries like Bangladesh. He observed that such measures were totally against the provisions of the multi-fibre arrangements which regulate international trade in textiles and clothing and that these did not take into account the special needs of the small suppliers, new entrants and least developed countries.

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CSO: 4600/1259

BANGLADESH

DETAILS OF TRADE PACT WITH BULGARIA REPORTED

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 20 Nov 85 p 8

[Text] Bangladesh and Bulgaria will exchange commodities worth U.S. dollar 175-200 million each way during the next five years under a long term trade agreement signed in Dhaka on Sunday, reports BSS.

According to a PID handout, a new barter protocol was also signed providing for each way annual exchange of goods and commodities worth 35 million US dollars which implies a growth of 75 percent in contrast with the size of 20 million dollars under the previous barter protocol.

Commerce Secretary ABM Ghulam Mostafa and Bulgarian First Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade signed the documents on behalf of their respective Governments.

Under the agreement Bangladesh will export jute products including twine and yarn, jute carpets, raw jute, crust and finished leather, leather products, hides and skins, tea, packet ree, readymade garments, specialized textiles and household linen, wires and cables, GI pipes, tobacco, cigarettes and tobacco manufactures, hardboard and particle board, cosmetics and toiletries, handicrafts, razor blades, crushed bones, cellophane, ceramic and cutlery products, sanitary wares and insulators, rayon yarn, newsprint, paper and paper products and spices.

On the other hand Bangladesh will import from Bulgaria pig iron, M.S. billets, raw cotton, soda ash, caustic soda, machinery and equipment, fertilizer, hot and cold rolled sheets, steel ropes, rails, radio transmitters, electrical equipment, medicine and pharmaceutical raw materials, cargo handling equipment and sugar.

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CSO: 4600/1247

BANGLADESH

LAWYERS PARLEY FOR NEUTRAL CARETAKER GOVERNMENT

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 Nov 85 pp 1, 10

[Text] The convention of the lawyers on Friday expressed the view that the present political economic and law and order situation prevailing in the country can be overcome only through establishment of a democratic government through holding of Parliament election under a neutral caretaker government. The convention also demanded withdrawal of restriction on open politics before the SARK conference.

The convention in a resolution made these demands. The convention organised by the Coordination Council of the Bar Associations Bangladesh was presided over by Mr Shamsul Huq Choudhury, Convener of the Council and President of the Supreme Court Bar Association. Former Chief Justice Mr Justice Kemaluddin Hossain addressed the convention as chief guest. Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, former Attorney General and Chairman of the Reception Committee delivered the address of welcome. Delegates from different bar associations attended the convention. First such convention was held in March 1984.

In a resolution the convention expressed the opinion that the opposition political parties played a laudable role by not participating in the farcical elections under the present government.

The convention in a resolution expressed concern over setting up courts at different places in the name of decentralisation of Judiciaries. The people were losing their confidence in judiciary. The convention demanded withdrawal of the decentralisation order immediately. It also expressed concern over curtailing the jurisdiction of the courts regarding jalmahal hat bazar and construction of buildings in Dhaka city.

The convention reiterated their demand for complete separation of judiciary from administration. The convention expressed the view that the six point demand of the lawyers is a Magna Carta of democracy and independent judiciary in the country. These demands have become people's demand through support of 16,000 lawyers and the people in general. The convention called upon all to carry forward the movement for realisation of these demands.

It also extended full support to the November 28 programme of 15-party alliance, seven-party alliance and Jamaat-e-Islami.

The convention criticised the Government for not dissolving the nominated Bar Council of Bangladesh and demanded immediate election to Bar Council. The convention decided to observe 'Bar Council day' on December 1 throughout the country through boycotting courts and holding meetings to voice their demand for elected bar council. The resolution demanded resignation of the nominated members of the Bar Council within seven days and said that failing which the Coordination Council will declare its future programme on this issue.

Independent Judiciary

Justice Kemaluddin Hossain in his speech said that the six point demand of the lawyers has become one point demand for restoration of democracy. He added that independent judiciary cannot be expected without restoration of democracy.

Regarding Parliament election the former Chief Justice said that neutral election is also not expected under present circumstances. He observed that decentralisation of judiciary violating the Constitution cannot be accepted on principle.

Mr Shamsul Huq Chowdhury in his speech said that the present political and economic crisis can be resolved only by an elected Government. He added that the suspended Constitution with all basic human rights must be restored first in the direction of restoring democracy. He demanded holding of parliamentary election under a non-political neutral government so that all political parties and classes get equal opportunity. He observed that this demand of the lawyers is supplementary to the demands of the 15-party alliance and the seven-party alliance.

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CSO: 4600/1249

BANGLADESH

WORKERS PARTY HOLDS RALLY IN CHITTAGONG

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 30 Nov 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

CHITTAGONG, Nov 29: Mr Abul Basher, Chairman of Workers Party of Bangladesh has called upon the working class to unite under the banner of his party to establish people's democracy.

He was addressing a rally at the local J N Sen hall this afternoon. Presided over by Mr. Bazal Master, chief of Chittagong District Units of the party, the rally was also addressed by Central leader Mr. Rashed Khan Menon, General Secretary of the party and Haider Akbar Khan Rano, Shah Alam and Habibul Haq.

Mr. Abdul Basher said democracy of the bourgeoisie had no provision for political rights of working class. He added, to establish people's democracy the existing social order must undergo a radical

change. For this, he said, the 15-Party Alliance put forward 5-point demand and 21-point condition.

Criticising the disinvestment policy of the government, he said it was the outcome of a long drawn conspiracy aimed at building a capitalist society.

Rashed Khan Menon said the socio-political condition of the country was crippling the working class. Demanding higher wages for the industrial workers he said the minimum wage of taka 560 per month as at present was too meagre. He said the salary before the liberation was Taka 125, minimum equivalent to Taka 1800 now. He warned that the workers would not pay back loan unless the rich industrialists paid back the huge loan taken from nationalised banks and other financial institutions.

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CSO: 4600/1256

BANGLADESH

ERSHAD SPEAKS AT NAVY SHIP COMMISSIONING

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 2 Dec 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Chittagong, Dec 1--President H.M. Ershad said today the territorial water has to be kept free from conflict for making it a safe and peaceful area for harnessing the sea resources for the welfare of the people, reports BSS.

The President, who is also the Commander-in-Chief of the Bangladesh Armed Forces, was speaking on the occasion of commissioning ceremony of Bangladesh Navy ship "Nirbhoy" at naval jetty B.N.S. Issa Khan here.

President Ershad said with this end in view, Bangladesh has been participating in the efforts for making Indian Ocean a zone of peace as per the declaration of the United Nations. In the same perspective, he said, we are trying to build up our naval force and make it self-reliant so that we could keep our territorial water peaceful. He said, "Bangladesh believes in friendship to all and malice to none. So not for the purpose of waging war, but to resist any aggression we require an ever prepared and efficient Army, Navy and Air Force."

The President said the national armed forces have been discharging the great responsibility of standing by the side of the people at hours of national needs side by side with performing their professional duty of safeguarding national sovereignty and independence. The Navy is making glorious contributions in this regards, he said.

President Ershad commended the participation of the members of Bangladesh Navy along with the members of the three Services and the people for organising relief, rehabilitation and checking epidemics after natural disasters in the off-shore islands and coastal areas of the country. He said the Bangladesh Navy should also take leadership in exploiting the resources in the territorial waters and raising quality of naval technology and navigation.

He said it is a matter of gratification that the members of the country's Navy at all levels are fortified with self-confidence, spirit of service to the nation and professional efficiency. Side by side with your efforts for

safeguarding national security and national development, you should continue your endeavours for devising newer war tactics and for attainment of progress in marine science and technology and navigation.

The President said, "Bangladesh is today sailing forward on the current of progress. A progressive programme is under implementation in every sphere of socio-economic life. We are making best uses of our work forces and resources for real development of the poverty stricken rural areas." With this end in view, he said, we have engaged all our efforts for increasing productions in all fields.

President Ershad expressed his optimism that with the united endeavours of all, the nation will be able to build its desired self-reliant new Bangladesh. The dearth of resources have never been turned out to be main and long-drawn obstacles in way for development pursuit. It is the best exploitation of human and economic resources which can drive the nation towards its objective of progress and prosperity.

President Ershad thanked the friendly country of China for extending hands of co-operation and friendship to Bangladesh's endeavour for development. He said the Government and the people of China like to see Bangladesh strong in all spheres. He expressed his confidence that the friendship between the two countries will further consolidate and strengthen through bilateral co-operation and exchanges.

The speech over, the President named the ship "Nirbhoy" and commissioned her as a Bangladesh Navy ship. He then gave the "commissioning form" to the Captain of the ship.

Earlier, on arrival the President was received by the Chief of Naval Staff and DCMLA, Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmad and the Commodore commanding B.N. Flotilla and Commodore Commanding Chittagong. The President was given a guard of honour by a smart contingent of Bangladesh Navy. He inspected the guard.

The colourful commissioning ceremony was attended, among others, by the Chief of Air Staff and DCMLA, Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud, local area Commander and ZMLA Zone 'C,' Maj Gen Nuruddin Khan, Air Officer commanding of local base and Principal Staff Officers and other senior officers of Bangladesh Navy.

President Ershad cut the commissioning cake offered Munajat and walked round the upper deck, operation room, bridge and ward room of the ship.

Later, addressing the officers and sailors of the navy at the B.N.S. Issa Khan, the President said the Armed Forces would continue to serve the nation to achieve economic emancipation side by side with their responsibility of protecting the country's independence and sovereignty.

He said the service provided by the members of the Armed Forces during the natural calamities like cyclones and floods had earned them the love and confidence of the people. He said they would continue to strive hard along with the people to build a happy and prosperous new Bangladesh.

President said the people had already lost confidence in some political parties because of their misrule in the past. These political parties have become totally isolated from the people, he said.

He said the nation had now reached a crossroad where it has been marching ahead towards progress and prosperity. "If we can continue this pace of development, Inshallah, we shall be able to reach our cherished goal of improving the lot of the common man," he said.

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CSO: 4600/1257

BANGLADESH

WEAKNESS IN INTERNATIONAL JUTE ORGANIZATION NOTED

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 22 Nov 85 p 8

[Article by Mustafa Main]

[Text] International Jute Organisation (IJO), the Dhaka based international forum for jute producers and jute growers, is yet to make a tuned take-off almost two years after its provisional launching.

The body is running short of fund as many of the signatories have not yet deposited their committed amount. On the other hand, the forum is yet to make a definitive entry into the United Nations paraphernalia as the forum is yet to fulfil the quota of consumers.

The IJO charter, the outcome of the United Nations conference on trade and development IV, puts forward a condition of at least three governments accounting for 85 percent of the jute export and at least 20 governments accounting for 65 percent of global jute import.

The recent meeting of the International Jute Council, the highest executive body of the IJO also observed the situation with a note of concern. The IJC session was chaired by M. Shamsul Haque Chisty, Chairman of the IJC. The meeting adopted four projects worth over 3.3 million U.S. dollars aimed at botanical research on jute and other allied fibres, expanding market for jute goods and sales promotions of textiles made of jute in the United States.

The projects were adopted at a time when the jute exporters were facing a dull market caused by production glut and the IJO was running short of fund and had about 350,000 U.S. dollars, roughly 12 percent of the project cost, at its disposal.

The chairman of the IJC, talking to journalists at a press conference arranged after the IJC session, said he was optimistic about the availability of funds from various agencies and said the projects would be undertaken by the end of 1986.

The IJO official, Iem G. Roos who now heads the organisation here in the wake of the sudden death of the executive director A.K. Dutt, said the situation prevailing in jute was not good and said the situation can be improved through research and development.

He said, with the joining of one or two more countries, the agreement would attain the definitive status. He, however, added that the provisional status hardly hampers the functioning of the agreement.

Regarding the definitive status of the IJO, the local observers, however, hold different views. Stressing the need of making the agreement they suggest that it was high time that the government should take high level diplomatic initiatives to collect support both from the east and the west.

It may be mentioned here that prior to the formal launching of the IJO the Soviet Union was interested in floating such a forum. Soon after the formal launching the Soviet Union and its East European allies pulled back. In a very recent development there are indications that Poland may come forward to sign the agreement. They have expressed their intention unofficially. Prior to this, Yugoslavia, another East European country, signed and ratified the agreement. Informed sources say Austria may also join soon.

The local IJO office says depositing the required documents at the New York office of the UNCTAD by Poland alone will make the agreement definitive. But the question of its smooth functioning does not cease to exist.

The view was shared by Mr Roos at the press conference. He categorically said common fund for commodities cannot be made operational until and unless both U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. agree to join the fund. With this agony haunting the organisation the IJC is going to hold a special session in Rome in December before its routine meet on March 12 next year.

The special session will inter alia consider a study of the report prepared by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the U.N. To make the agreement operational and smooth fund flow Bangladesh should come forward with rigorous diplomatic exercise to bring both the giants U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. in the same table not only as signatories but also as beneficiaries of the agreement, suggests an experienced observer.

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CSO: 4600/1248

BANGLADESH

BRIEFS

NEW CHILEAN ENVOY--Chile has appointed Dr Marcelo Padilla Minvielle its Ambassador to Bangladesh, the Foreign Office announced in Dhaka on Tuesday, reports BSS. Born July 28, 1941 in Valparaiso, Chile, Ambassador Padilla Minvielle graduated from the University of Chile and joined his country's Foreign Service in 1963. He held various positions at home and abroad and was Consul General of Chile in La Paz, Bolivia with the rank of head of mission in 1981-83. He was acting as the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before he was promoted to the rank of Ambassador on December 16, 1984. Ambassador Padilla also his country's envoy to India, will have his residence in New Delhi. He is married and has two children. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 28 Nov 85 p 3] /9317

IDB GRANTS REPORTED--Jeddah, Nov 23--The Board of Executive Directors of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has approved loans, technical assistance and grants totalling 135.5 million dollars to finance development projects and foreign trade operations in a number of member states, including Bangladesh, reports IINA. Concluding their three-day 89th session here under the chairmanship of Bank's President Dr Ahmad Muhammad Ali, the directors decided to furnish the Industrial Development Bank of Egypt with 10 million dollars to finance medium and small size industrial and agricultural projects. This is the first loan by the Bank to Egypt since it has resumed membership following a decision by the fourth Islamic summit held in Casablanca in January 1984. The total sum approved by the directors for the financing of foreign trade operations was 120.3 million dollars. Out of this 10 million dollars will be allocated to purchase cement to Bangladesh from a member country. A total of 18.3 million dollars will be given to three member countries to import jute from Bangladesh. They are Egypt 5 million dollars, Syria 11.5 million dollars and the Yemen Arab Republic 2 million dollars. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 24 Nov 85 p 8] /9317

ADMINISTRATIVE PANEL MEETING--The meeting of the National Implementation Committee for Administrative Reforms (NICAR) with President Hussain Muhammad Ershad in the chair held threadbare discussions Wednesday on the representation given by the upazila chairmen, says BSS. The upazila chairmen submitted the representations to President Ershad when he met them at four meetings in four divisions to personally know the functioning and problems faced by the chairmen in running the new setup at the grass-root

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level. The meeting decided to create provisions for appeal to the District Judge including the Additional Judge level against the verdict of election tribunal for settling upazila elections disputes. The meeting decided that anti-smuggling committees will be formed at the upazilas along the border with upazila chairmen as its head. The chairmen of such upazilas will be members of the district level anti-smuggling committees. The meeting directed the Home Ministry to issue identity cards to the upazila chairmen to enable them to enter the Bangladesh secretariat. The meeting decided that the upazila chairmen will have a discretionary fund of Taka 25,000 for a year. A maximum of Taka 1,000 could be spent at a time. The fund will be made available from revenue income of the upazila with the authorization of the upazila parishad. [Excerpt] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 21 Nov 85 p 1] /9317

PRC JUTE PURCHASE--China will buy 26 thousand 6 hundred tons raw jute worth Taka 25 crore from Bangladesh under barter trade agreement between the two countries, said an official handout, reports BSS. An agreement to this effect was signed between Bangladesh Jute Corporation and the representative of China in Dhaka on Saturday. Out of the total quantity of raw jute to be exported, 60 percent is of 'D' grade while 40 percent of 'C' grade. Shipment of this jute will be completed between December 1985 and February 1986. Earlier China bought 15 thousand tons of raw jute from Bangladesh in the current season. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 Nov 85 p 8] /9317

BULGARIAN, SOVIET SUGAR--About 22,000 tons of sugar imported from Bulgaria and Soviet Union reached the country on Monday, a TCB press release said in Dhaka, reports BSS. The press release said a ship carrying 11,447 metric tons of sugar imported by TCB from Bulgaria reached Chittagong Port on Monday. Meanwhile, according to Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation, another ship with 10,000 metric tons of sugar procured from Soviet Union under barter agreement also reached Chittagong Port on Monday. TCB further said ship carrying 7,250 tons of sugar from Thailand is expected to reach Chittagong today (Tuesday). [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 26 Nov 85 pp 1, 8] /9317

JANA TANTI DAL CHANGES--Secretary General of Janadal Mr Mizanur Rahman Choudhury dissolved the central committee of Jana Tanti Dal and formed a 16-member new central committee of the organisation, according to a press release of Janadal on Sunday. It said that Mr Fariduddin Choudhury and Kazi Saidur Rahman were made President and General Secretary respectively of the new committee. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 20 Nov 85 p 3] /9317

SOVIET TECHNICAL TEAM--Khulna, Nov 15--A six-member Russian technical team headed by Mr Alferev is now in the town to conduct a survey and study of the site and technical aspect of the proposed rail-cum-road bridge across the river Rupsa, reports BSS. The proposed bridge would connect the Chalna Port with the rest of the country by rail and road. The team is likely to stay in Khulna for two weeks before submitting their final reports to the government on the proposed project which would roughly cost Taka 200 crore.

BURMA TALKS PLANNED--Barisal, Nov 21--Barrister Mainul Hosein has said selfish thoughts pose an insurmountable hindrance to the building up of a prosperous society. "It is no easy job to establish ourselves as an independent nation worth the name," said the Chairman of the Editorial Boards of The New Nation and The Ittefaq. Barrister Hosein was speaking at a reception accorded to him by the Group Theatre here yesterday evening. He said drama groups in the country were working for establishment of a decent society and called upon them to move forward bravely facing the problems in the cultural arena. Referring to various problems of Barisal, he said these were no different from the overall problems of the society. The problems here were, however, much more compared to those of other areas, he added. Barrister Hosein said efforts were on to tide over the problems in all fields of national life and added drama groups should not lag behind in this respect. They would play their part in this process, he hoped. Chowdhury said answering a question to set the principles for delimiting the maritime boundary in the light of the Law of the Sea Convention, which had been signed by the two close neighbours. The Foreign Minister said that convention and case history would be considered in the best spirit of good neighbourliness in delimiting the maritime boundary. Mr Chowdhury said his delegation was very warmly received in Burma and said, "We have shared perception on many issues like Kampuchea and Afghanistan" which came up for discussions during the talks. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 22 Nov 85 pp 1, 8] /9317

PRC-DHAKA JOINT VENTURES--China is interested in the progress and development of Bangladesh and also willing to participate in joint ventures, particularly in the field of industry. This was stated by Mr Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury, Executive Committee Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCC&I) on Wednesday after his return from a week-long visit to Beijing as a member of a CCC&I delegation. He further stated that there was a tremendous scope of expansion of trade with China. Bangladesh could also benefit itself from China's expertise in different fields. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 30 Nov 85 p 3] /9317

NORWEGIAN FINANCING AGREEMENT--Bangladesh and Norway signed in Dhaka on Friday a four-year (1986-89) financing agreement on country programme, according to an official handout, reports BSS. The agreement was signed by Mr Bernt H. Lund, Secretary General, Ministry of Development Cooperation of Norway and Mr Akhtar Ali, Joint Secretary, External Resources Division on behalf of their respective government after two days of talks. Under the Agreement Norway will give Bangladesh a grant of NOK 225 million equivalent to Taka 67 crore each year. The grant will be utilised for development activities in various sectors like inland water transport, health and population control, women's activities, railway telecommunication and cottage industries and as import and commodity assistance. The five-member Norwegian delegation led by Mr Lund arrived in Dhaka on November 24. The delegation visited some projects in different places of Bangladesh which are being implemented under Norwegian assistance. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 30 Nov 85 p 8] /9317

TOAHA ON GOVERNMENT--Chittagong, Nov 22--Mr Mohammad Toaha, chairman of Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal today said he, along with some other leaders of the 15-party alliance, would join a national government if formed by the present military regime. He, however, said they would join the national government under certain conditions. He stressed on formation of a national government immediately in order to overcome the present political economic crisis. He was addressing a workers rally of his party at JM Sen Hall this afternoon. Presided over by Mr Raza Mia, chief of Chittagong district unit of Samyabadi Dal it was also addressed by central leaders Dilip Barua, Khandoker Ali Abbas and Abdur Rab and local leader Azizul Haq. Addressing the rally, Mr Toaha said earlier he refused to cooperate with the government as it failed to fulfil the conditions. He said the 15-party alliance would frustrate any internal or external conspiracy to foil the SARC summit. [Text]
[Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 23 Nov 85 p 8] /9317

CSO: 4600/1258

INDIA

CPI LEADER ISSUES STATEMENT ON GENEVA SUMMIT

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Dec 85 p 5

[Text]

The CPI has taken note of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachyov's report to the USSR Supreme Soviet on the Geneva Summit in which the Soviet leader stressed the importance of "comprehensive" cooperation between India and the Soviet Union.

The significance of Mr Gorbachyov reiterating cooperation with the non-aligned world and specially India was obvious, taking into account the imperialist designs against the security and national sovereignty of India and other independent countries of Asia, the party has said.

In a statement issued on Monday, CPI leader N K Krishnan has said that the Geneva Summit and Mr Gorbachyov's report have given a "new hope" to mankind that imperialist policies of militarism, war and aggression can be defeated.

The talks between President Gorbachyov and President Reagan have created favourable conditions for intensifying the peace movement and the campaign against the Star Wars programme. It was in this context that Indo-Soviet cooperation acquired a special international significance.

The CPI has appealed to all anti-

imperialist and peace forces in the country to capitalise on the favourable conditions and step up joint mass action to further the objective of peace.

While impressing upon India's role in the anti-war movement, Mr Krishnan has quoted Mr Gorbachyov's words on India: "Interaction with the nonaligned movement, including comprehensive cooperation with the republic of India, for the people and leaders of which we have profound respect, has a great role to play in the improvement of international relations".

Mr Gorbachyov's reference to Asia and the Pacific where he has stated the Soviet desire to turn the areas into peace zones and its commitment to broadening political dialogue among these countries to foster mutual trust and cooperation have also been highlighted by Mr Krishnan.

On the Geneva Summit, the CPI has said that its positive results should not be underestimated even while keeping in mind Mr Gorbachyov's statement that American unwillingness to give up its Star Wars programme made it impossible to reach concrete arrangements on real disarmament, above all, on the problems of nuclear and space arms.

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INDIA

INDIA, ITALY MAKE PROGRESS IN TAXATION AGREEMENT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Dec 85 p 9

[Article by D.G. Gupte]

[Text] Bombay, December 1--The agreement between the governments of Italy and India for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes and income is expected to be ratified by both the governments, by the middle of this month. The draft of the agreement was finalised way back on January 12, 1981 in Rome.

The taxes covered under the agreement will be the income tax, including any surcharge thereon imposed under the Income Tax Act 1961, and the surtax imposed under the Companies (Profits) Surtax Act 1964, in the case of India. In the case of Italy, the taxes will be the personal income-tax the corporate income-tax and the local income-tax.

Under the draft agreement, double taxation will be avoided in accordance with the agreed procedure. The amount of Italian tax payable under the laws of Italy and in accordance with the provisions of the agreement, whether directly or by deduction, by a resident of India, in respect of income from sources within Italy, which has been subjected to tax both in India and Italy, shall be allowed as a credit against the Indian tax payable in respect of such income but in an amount not exceeding that proportion of income-tax which such income bears to the entire income chargeable to Indian tax.

If a resident of Italy owns items of income which are taxable in India, Italy in determining its income tax may include the basis upon which such taxes are imposed, and the said items of income. In such a case, Italy will deduct from the taxes so calculated the Indian tax on income, but in an amount not exceeding that proportion of the aforesaid Italian tax which such items of income bear to the entire income.

Where tax on business profits, dividend, interest, or royalty arising in a contracting state is exempted or reduced in accordance with the taxation laws of that state, such tax which has been exempted or reduced shall be deemed to have been paid.

Other Countries

As is known, the treaty for the avoidance of double taxation has been signed by India with the U.K. and with Germany. Italian industrialists who are keen on tie-ups with Indian companies and transfer of technology than mere exports to India have expressed concern over the delay on the part of the Italian government in the finalisation of the draft treaty between India and Italy for avoidance of double taxation.

Such concern was expressed by many who participated in the seminar held recently at Bologna, Italy, organised by the Italian Institute for Foreign Trade and the Indian Investment Centre, Frankfurt.

It was felt that Italian companies were put to a disadvantage while competing with British and German companies in India.

The Italian companies have been pressing their government for immediate ratification of the treaty since taxes in Italy are quite high and the absence of a treaty results in double taxation of income earned by them from India.

Mr Nishith Desai, expert on international taxation, who was specially invited to address the seminar, explained the comparative tax advantages U.K. and German companies had in India due to their nations having a treaty for avoidance of double taxation with India.

Under the treaty with U.K., the tax on royalties and technical fees has been reduced to 30 percent from the normal rate of 40 percent. In the case of Federal Republic of Germany, the tax on royalty payable by German companies has been maintained at 40 percent, while that on technical fees reduced to 20 percent.

Under the draft agreement between Italy and India, the rate of taxation on royalties and technical fees will remain at 40 percent unless it is changed suitably while ratification of the agreement. However, such a ratification will have to be made by the respective governments and their Parliaments.

Global Tenders

Until recently, contracts by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) provided that while submitting global tenders the parties would bear the tax liability for contracts in the Continental Shelf. After the Income Tax was extended to the Continental Shelf in April 1983, ONGC has been asking foreign companies to quote the amount for technical fee gross of tax.

In this context, a British company will have to quote Rs 130 per Rs 100 worth of technical services, while a German company will have to quote Rs 120 and the Italian company Rs 140.

In the case of royalties of a recurring type, the British company will have to pay tax at 30 percent, the German company at 40 percent and the Italian company at 40 percent.

Since technical services are important in ONGC contracts, Italian companies feel that they will be at a disadvantage vis-a-vis the British and German companies even after ratification of the treaty on avoidance of double taxation.

At the said seminar, Mr Guzzinati, vice-president, Chamber of Commerce, pointed out that Italy's participation in the Indian market was unimportant with 0.23 percent of imports and 0.37 percent of exports. He felt considering the prospective policies of India there was good potential by penetrating the Indian market by means of contracts of technological transfer. He felt that the time was opportune to improve and strengthen the knowledge of the reciprocal reality of the scope for increase of exchanges and to establish promotional activities.

Mr B.N. Das, technical advisor, Indian Investment Centre, outlined the massive investment outlay of the Seventh Five-Year Plan and the need for Indian industry to import technology.

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CSO: 4600/1262

INDIA

PAPER REPORTS RAJIV MEETING WITH PAKISTAN PRESIDENT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Dec 85 p 1

[Text]

DHAKA, December 7.(PTI).
THE Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and President Zia-ul-Haq of Pakistan today reviewed Indo-Pak relations during a 15-minute meeting.

There was a brief overview of bilateral relations when President Zia met Mr. Gandhi at the Karatoya guest house where the Indian Prime Minister is staying, according to the Prime Minister's spokesman. He said they will continue the talks at greater length when President Zia makes a stopover at Delhi on December 17.

Besides bilateral matters, the two leaders also discussed South Asian issues and the question of Pakistan permitting Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan to visit India for the Congress centenary in the last week of this month at Bombay. President Zia informed Mr. Gandhi that the Frontier Gandhi would be permitted to visit India for the Congress centenary.

STATUS OF WOMEN

In the course of discussion on SARC the question of raising the status of women in the region also came up. Reference was made in this connection to a delegation of Indian women entrepreneurs that visited Pakistan recently.

The spokesman pointed out that the two leaders would have opportunities of having further discussions at the

banquet tonight and during the river cruise tomorrow.

Present at the talks on the Indian side were the external affairs minister, Mr. B. R. Bhagat, additional secretary in the external affairs ministry, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, additional secretary to the Prime Minister, Mr. R. Gharekhan, Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, joint secretary in the Prime Minister's office and Mr. S. K. Lambah, joint secretary in the external affairs ministry.

President Zia was accompanied by the foreign minister, Mr. Yaqub Khan, finance minister, Mr. Mahbubul Haq, foreign secretary, Mr. Niaz Naik, additional foreign secretary, Mr. Abdus Sattar, Mr. Riaz Khokhar, director-general (South Asia), Pakistan's ambassadors to India and Bangladesh, Dr. Humayun Khan and Mr. Tanveer Ahmad Khan respectively.

The proposals made by the Tamil United Liberation Front on the ethnic issue are understood to have been discussed when Mr. Gandhi and President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka met here for about 15 minutes today. No aides were present at the meeting.

The Prime Minister's spokesman said the two leaders basically discussed bilateral matters and briefly touched upon South Asian issues. The Sri Lankan President met Mr. Gandhi at the Karatoya guest house.

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CSO: 4600/1268

INDIA

GANDHI MEETS WITH CONGRESS-I PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Dec 85 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 2--Mr Rajiv Gandhi said at a meeting of the Congress (I) Parliamentary Party executive that he was not happy about the "indiscriminate release of the arrested persons" in Punjab.

According to Mr J.K. Jain, secretary of the CPP(I), who briefed the Press, the Prime Minister did not elaborate on the subject but expressed himself against "indiscriminate release of terrorists."

In his brief speech at the executive meeting the Prime Minister said India was not making a nuclear bomb. "We have welcomed President Zia of Pakistan to visit our fast breeder plant at Kalpakkam in Madras," he added.

The Prime Minister was congratulated by the members on his successful visits to Vietnam and Japan. Most of the discussions at the meeting were on trade and industry. Mr Rajiv Gandhi said India should encourage trade with different countries but more trade should be done with non-aligned countries.

On the question of technology, the Prime Minister said that barring the sphere of industry, there should be "a little bit of tightening up" on import of technology, particularly regarding consumer goods. If someone imported any technology into the country but did not develop it within a reasonable time, the licence should be rescinded, he added.

Mr Gandhi said the development of technology in India had started in 1950. "We brought some industrial framework from Japan in 1954. Japan had put up its industrial base about 150 years ago, while development of technology began in India from 1950."

The Prime Minister suggested speedier development of the small-scale industry "which should be pushed forward on a large scale." He said: "We must see how we can accelerate the growth of the small-scale industries." For interior areas such as Lahaul and Spiti in Himachal Pradesh, he said it would be necessary to establish an infrastructure that would be suitable for the development of small-scale industries there.

The Union Cabinet committee on political affairs met this evening with Mr Rajiv Gandhi in the chair. The Prime Minister is understood to have acquainted the committee members of the outcome of his visit to Vietnam and Japan.

As a follow-up of the four-day visit of Mr Rajiv Gandhi to Japan, the joint committee on Indo-Japanese cooperation in science and technology will meet here next month to work out details of areas of technology transfer from Japan to India, adds PTI.

The External Affairs Minister, Mr B.R. Bhagat, who had signed the agreement with his Japanese counterpart, Mr Shintaro Abe, told reporters that apart from technology transfer, there would be greater cooperation between the two countries in the fields of railways and textiles.

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CSO: 4600/1263

INDIA

PAPERS REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS IN CPI-M

Report to State Conference

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 1 Dec 85 p 1

[Text]

Calcutta, Nov. 30: The CPI(M) state unit has admitted that corruption, audacity, megalomania and "un-Communist-like behaviour" have been noticed among a section of party members. This observation was made today by the CPI(M) state committee in its political and organisational report placed before the party's state conference being held here.

Party leaders have ascribed these "anti-working class" foibles to the continuous rule of the party in the state for the last eight years. According to them, it was but natural in a capitalist society that such vices would creep in at different levels, both in the party as well as the government.

Maintaining that party workers had been warned against such vices and that a three-member disciplinary committee headed by the CPI(M) secretariat members, Mr Buddhadev Bhattacharya, Mr Sainen Dasgupta and Mr Abdullah Rasul, had been formed, the report, however, said the party had failed to implement decisions taken to tackle them. On many occasions, there had been delays in taking action against some erring members in spite of recommendations from the disciplinary committee.

The report also noted the failure of the CPI(M) state committee in perco-

lating political consciousness to all levels of party workers. "The biggest weakness of the state leadership has been in not being able to give the party cadres a clear concept of the complex political situation and problems being faced by the party for being in the Left Front government," the report said.

It also noted that there had been a communication gap between the leadership and the common workers about the performance as well as the limitations of the Front government in this state. This weakness is at the root of all the failures of the state CPI(M), it added.

Industrial policy-justified: The report justified a major policy decision of the Left Front government, namely

its collaboration with monopoly houses and the invitation to some multinationals to set up industries in this state. The state leadership lauded the decision as it feared the joint-sector petrochemical project at Haldia and the Philips complex at Salt Lake would generate heated debates at the conference. The report explained these steps were taken under compulsion in the interest of the state's economy as Central assistance was not available despite repeated requests. "The step was realistic and conformed to Marxism and was not against the CPI(M)'s policy of opposing monopolists and multinationals," it observed.

1 Dec Meeting, Resolutions Passed

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 Dec 85 p 5

[Text]

Calcutta, Dec 1 (PTI)—The 15th State conference of CPI-M today sought cooperation from both capitalist and socialist countries to set up industries in West Bengal on favourable conditions for accelerated economic growth and creation of employment opportunities for the youth.

In a resolution on industrial policy of the Left Front Government, the conference felt that there was nothing wrong in seeking participation of the private sector monopoly and multinational companies for the State's industrialisation.

State Land Revenue Minister Benoy Choudhury moved the resolution and Finance Minister Ashoke Mitra seconded it. The resolution was adopted by 595 votes to 5, Mr Soroj Mukherjee, secretary told newsmen while briefing the third day's deliberations of the conference.

The resolution said that in the joint sector projects like the electronic complex at Salt Lake and petrochemicals at Haldia, the Government would retain most of the power to run the units effectively in the interest of industry and its workers.

But the party would also remain alert against the exploitative role of the multi-national companies and their harmful effect on the socio-economic and political life, the conference added.

It, however, accused the Centre of adopting discriminatory attitude towards private sectors for not granting licences to them.

The conference pointed out that investment by financial institutions in their State during the past few years was "significant". The States were kept in dark when joint sittings were held between the Finance Commission and the capitalist and socialist countries.

It was also said that West Bengal was kept out of the list when new locations were chosen for the setting up of

new industrial units in the central sector.

The conference felt that certain private industrialists despite earning huge profit were not ploughing back even one per cent of it, but chose to invest it outside the party would oppose this policy.

Altogether 12 resolutions on various subjects were passed, 11 of them unanimously.

The conference demanded restructuring of Centre-State relations and devolution of more political and economic power to the States, besides repealing articles 356 and 360 of the Constitution.

It reiterated that 75 per cent of the revenue collected should be distributed among the States according to their needs. The States should be taken into confidence by the Centre in resolving the inter-State problems.

The conference said several States including West Bengal had remained backward because of uneven economic development creating discontent among the people, but the divisive forces were trying to take advantage of the situation and destroy the country's unity and integrity.

Another resolution alleged that the big newspapers were publishing false news and writing editorial on this basis. They were not only distorting the Left Front's policy, but also misleading the people.

Turning to Government media — radio and television, — the conference regretted that they were not only beating the ruling party's drum, but has also taken steps to build the image of the Congress Government and its leaders. The present Prime Minister has created a record in this regard", the resolution said, adding the Opposition parties 'version in this State did not get due importance and even certain views of ministers, government spokesmen and the ruling Front, were not entertained.

Manifesto on Assam Elections

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Dec 85 p 3

[Text]

GUWAHATI, Dec. 1 (PTI).
THE Communist Party of India (Marxist) today described the Assam accord as anti-minority and anti-democratic.

The party in its manifesto for the forthcoming elections in Assam said the accord had failed to generate a sense of mutual understanding and amity among different sections of the people and instead created a new division between the majority and the minority communities.

Assuring the electorate that the party would continue to fight for the security of the minorities and democratic rights for all, the CPM said it would strive for giving citizenship rights to all particularly, for the 1966-71 stream of entrants, taking 1971 as the cut-off year.

The CPM said that the creation of the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) was the culmination of the six-year-old agitation on foreign nationals issue which had strong regional overtones.

About the newly-formed United Minority Front (UMF), the manifesto said that while the move for protecting

rights of the minorities was a legitimate one, formation of a political party with regional outlook would not help solve any problem democratically.

Meanwhile, the UMF manifesto released at a press conference here said it would work for the scrapping of the Assam accord if voted to power in the next assembly elections.

The party general secretary, Mr. Tarapada Bhattacharjee, said it would also make efforts for the impeachment of the election commission for violation of all established norms while preparing the rolls for the 1985 Assam elections and extension of time for repeated objection and claims even after some of the rolls were published as final.

The Karnataka chief minister, Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde, will formally launch the Janata Party's campaign for the December 16 elections in Assam at a public meeting here tomorrow.

The party president, Mr. Chandrashekhar, will visit Assam for four days from December 4 and again on December 14 and leave only after the elections are over.

State Conference Closes

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 3 Dec 85 p 1

[Text]

Calcutta, Dec. 2: Mr Saroj Mukherjee was today re-elected secretary of the CPI(M) West Bengal committee at its 15th state conference which ended here today.

Announcing Mr Mukherjee's re-election at a press conference, Mr Biman Basu, state secretariat member, said Mr Mukherjee's name, proposed by Mr Jyoti Basu, had the unanimous support of the newly-elected 94-member state committee. Mr Mukherjee, 74, is the oldest member of the party as he had received his membership in 1931, Mr Basu added.

Mr Saroj Mukherjee, who was also present, said the conference ended before schedule. The

scheduled evening session was not held as the new state committee was elected this morning. After deliberations, two politburo members, Mr B.T. Ranadive and Mr M. Basavapunniah, addressed the conference supporting the "line taken by the Left Front government," he added.

Explaining the political significance of the Left Front, Mr Ranadive endorsed the government stand on the joint sector and the industrial policy. Mr Basavapunniah spoke on section 112, of the party programme which enabled the CPI(M) to participate in parliamentary democracy, and explained the historical background of an

alternative government, he said.

Mr Mukherjee said Mr Jyoti Basu replied to the delegates' questions on the functioning of the state government. Mr Mukherjee replied to questions on the party's district organisations. Mr Buddhadev Bhattacharya, CPI(M) secretariat member, spoke on the amendments received to the political and organisational report and Mr Biman Basu moved the report. The report was unanimously approved by the conference. A 10-point immediate programme to be taken up by the party was also unanimously approved.

The conference elected 170 delegates to the party congress to be held by the end of this month.

Decline in Influence

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 Dec 85 p 5

[Text]

Calcutta, Dec 9 — The CPM leadership has noted with concern the lack of growth of the party and its mass organisations in almost all parts of the country. Andhra, known for its traditional Left base in the past and where the communists had hoped to come to power on their own in early fifties, has seen a distinct decline in party's influence.

A section of the party leadership during the State review discussion is understood to have alleged that the CPM's decline, along with that of the CPI in the State, was directly related to their tailism of Telugu Desam. The State leaders maintained that the uncritical support to TDP have blurred the party's image among the masses. The Andhra unit has demanded a party plenum after the 12th Party Congress at Calcutta, to thrash out a new line.

The leadership is worried also on the stagnation of the party in

the Hindi areas like Bihar, and UP.

States like Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab also give a much more dismal picture, with hardly any sign of growth. In Delhi, the membership is only 727, indicating that even the universities have largely ceased to attract ideologically drawn youths towards the party. In Haryana the total party membership is 800, in Madhya Pradesh 1,050, in Rajasthan 2,124.

The strongest party unit in West Bengal has registered 1,300 increase in the party membership in a year. But Mr Saroj Mukherjee is unhappy over the poor ideological quality of the members, besides he has drawn attention to the fact that the mass organisations including CITU, have failed to show proportionate increase in their influence and membership.

Interview with Namboodiripad

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 10 Dec 85 p 6

[Interview with E.M.S. Namboodiripad, CPI(M) general secretary, by Pathik Guha]

[Text]

Q: In your address at the inaugural session of the state conference of the CPI(M) you had gone to the extent of calling the Prime Minister authoritarian. Does this indicate any recent change in your party's perception of him?

A: Not at all. As a matter of fact, even during the Assembly elections he said that there should not be any non-Congress(I) government in any state. This is exactly what his mother had said all along. Even then we spoke of the authoritarian trend.

Q: Do you fear any major offensive by Mr. Gandhi against communists?

A: You see, unless you want to read something particular into what we write you will see that in all our documents we have said that we support him (Mr Gandhi) to the extent to which he fights imperialism. That stand still continues. There is no change at all. You see, in my first interview with Mr Gandhi I repeated exactly what I told his mother in my last interview with her. I said that in the field of foreign policy there are several

aspects on which we can agree. But we do not agree with all your foreign policies. I also told him that on the issue of national unity and integration we agree with many of the things that you say. But on the economic aspects there is nothing in common between you and us. So there is no room for misunderstanding unless you (journalists) are determined to find it out. We are not committed to supporting the Congress(I) government, but at the same time we are not allergic to it either.

Q: I think you did not get my query right. My question was whether your party apprehends any attack on communists by Mr Gandhi.

A: He may want to, but he cannot do it. Otherwise, what is the point in attacking Calcutta for its so-called lack of development? An attack on Calcutta is not merely an attack on the city or the Bengalis. It is an attack on us.

Q: In your address you spoke in support of the medium businessmen. Who did you have in mind?

A: I am of the opinion that not only the medium businessmen, but also some big businessmen are facing a threat. The open-door policy of Mr Gandhi has threatened the very existence of big businesses. All businessmen are facing the danger except the ones that are ready to go in for collaboration with foreign multinationals.

Q: Should I then conclude that you support profit-making by these businessmen?

A: We are not committed to anybody in particular. Our sole commitment is to the Indian people.

Q: The CPI(M) has criticised the Assam accord for disfranchising 10 lakh voters with a single stroke of the pen. What do you have to say regarding the matter?

A: I want to make a correction. We are happy that the signing of the accord put an end to the agitation there (in Assam). But the terms and conditions of the accord were hardly satisfactory. We are not interested in the majority and the minority (communities in Assam). What we are saying is that the citizenship right of over a million voters is under attack. We do not consider either the majority or the minority (communities) as our vote bank in Assam. This attack on a section of the people in Assam can be the beginning of a bigger attack on the entire people of India.

Q: Just after the signing of the accord the chief minister of West Bengal, Mr Jyoti Basu, apprehended the influx of a section of people from Assam to this state.

A: Why are you asking me about what he (Mr Basu) said?

Q: All I want to ask you is that whether this sort of apprehension and a campaign against such an influx does not amount to showing the same disrespect to the constitutional rights of Indians as shown by Mr Bal Thackeray?

A: Why are you asking me? You better ask Mr Basu.

Q: Of late, there has been much talk about your party's stand on computerisation. It is said that some Politburo members hold divergent views on the issue.

A: I do not know. I think computerisation in socialist countries is good. That being so, it should be good for India also. But under the conditions of today's India computerisation means robbing a large number of people of their employment. What I mean to say is that under the capitalist system computerisation certainly means an attack on the people. How to fight it is a different proposition altogether.

Q: Do you not support computerisation in services like the Indian Airlines?

A: I am only talking about the principle. I am not competent to comment on how it operates in a particular industry.

Q: What is your assessment of the performance of the two Left Front governments in India?

A: Very good.

Q: Why do you say so?

A: The very fact that the two chief ministers of these two Front-governed states were the only ones in the country who provided an alternative line of planning in India.

Q: In the National Development Council (NDC) meeting, you mean to say?

A: Yes. I did the same thing when I was a chief minister.

Q: We know that.

A: But I must say that when I did the same thing, Mr Gandhi's mother did not ask me to opt out of Planning. When she asked (at an NDC meet), 'May I accept the Plan as a consensus?' I replied, 'No, I am opposed to it.' Then she said,

'After all this is a consensus.' I said, 'I am not a part of that consensus.' Even then she did not ask me to opt out of planning.

Q: Do you mean to say that Mr Gandhi is more authoritarian than his mother?

A: No, the only thing is that the crisis of capitalism in India today, is far more serious than what it was in 1968.

Q: The RSP, at its recent plenum at Alipurduar, concluded that the two Left Front governments in the country have failed in their mission to be the weapon of struggle for the common people. Your comments.

A: Is not the role played by Mr Jyoti Basu and Mr Nripen Chakraborty that of serving as a weapon of struggle? They were the only ones to propose an alternative to Indian planning. You seem to have a strange understanding of the word struggle.

Q: Do you not think that the Left Front's decision to go in for joint collaboration with monopolists has compromised the position of the leftists as a whole in the eyes of the people?

A: No. You see, living in this capitalist country is a compromise. It is not as if communists do not compromise. Fighting elections under a capitalist system is a compromise. Getting a majority and forming a government thereafter, is also a compromise. What I mean to say is that a communist government in a state in capitalist India is not a free agent. Don't think that we can do as we please.

Q: So there is no need for the left to disown the efficacy of the parliamentary system?

A: If we disown the efficacy, shall we participate in polls?

Q: It is being suggested in several circles that the CPI(M) is gradually leaning more towards the Soviet Union. In fact, in the draft resolution to be discussed at the party congress this month you have mentioned the Soviet Union quite a number of times while China hardly figured.

A: If you want to draw political conclusions from the number of times a country has been mentioned, you are free to do that.

Q: What do you have to say about CPI-CPI(M) unity?

A: If by unity you mean united action, it is there. But as some of you imagine that unity is merger of the two parties, we are not for it. I do not know why you do not talk about the merger of the two communist parties with the RSP and Forward Bloc as well.

Q: But the CPI leaders some time back criticised your Politburo member, Mr B.T. Ranadive, for claiming that the revolution of the common people of India will be successful only under the leadership of the CPI(M).

A: If you put words into our mouth I cannot help. We have only said that the people's democratic revolution will be successful in a broad united front of anti-imperialist, anti-feudal, anti-monopoly and democratic forces. We never said anything about the CPI(M).

Q: But then the CPI mouth-piece, New Age, carried long articles by the party general-secretary, Mr C. Rajeswara Rao, criticising Mr Ranadive's assertions.

A: If you put trust in what the New Age says then I am afraid you will have to believe so many things in the world. We have never said that the revolution will take place under the CPI(M) (leadership).

Q: Do you have any time frame for the CPI(M) capturing the power at the Centre? In how many decades do you hope to achieve that?

A: You please read our documents. In them we have said that unlike other Opposition parties we never claim to become the single alternative to the Congress(I).

Q: So you do not have any such target?

A: No, we are not thinking of that. So where does the question of time arise? That is not in our field of vision at all.

Q: In hindsight, do you consider the CPI(M)'s decision to support Mr Jagjivan Ram after the Morarji Desai government

fell was a faux pas?

A: No, that was not a mistake.

Q: Would you please elaborate on that.

A: Much water has flown down the Ganges since then and I do not want to go into all that once again. Your question was whether I committed a mistake. I say, I did not.

Q: How do you assess the communist movement in Kerala, especially in the present-day context?

A: A question like that cannot be answered in a session like this.

Q: What I mean is that since the Punnapara-Vayalar struggle the base of the party has narrowed down instead of broadening. Do you agree?

A: No, it has got far more people in its fold now. After Punnapara-Vayalar, when we contested an election, we did not get a single seat and in most of the seats we contested we lost our deposits. Today, we do not lose the deposit in any constituency. Even Mr Karunakaran does not have any hope of remaining in power unless he keeps with all other parties in Kerala.

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CSO: 4600/1273

INDIA

REPORT ON INTERVIEW WITH CPI-M LEADER NAMBOODIRIPAD

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 3 Dec 85 p 4

[Article by Pathik Guha]

[Text]

Calcutta, Dec. 2: Capturing power at the Centre is not "in the field of vision" of the CPI(M), according to the party general secretary, Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad. In an exclusive interview to *The Telegraph*, the party leader commented that "unlike other opposition parties, the CPI(M) does not claim to become the single alternative to the Congress(I)."

Asked about the time-frame that the communists have in mind in capturing power at the Centre, the CPM leader said, "We are not thinking of that. What we are interested in is forming a broad united front of all anti-imperialist, anti-feudalistic, anti-monopoly and democratic forces in the country."

According to Mr Namboodiripad, his description of the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, as "authoritarian" in his inaugural address at the state conference of the party was "nothing new." "In fact, the authoritarian trend in him was voiced by us when, during the last Assembly elections in some states, he said that the states

should not have non-Congress(I) governments," Mr Namboodiripad said, adding, "he just echoed the same stand held by his mother years ago."

The CPM leader felt that not only small businessmen, but even some big industrialists were under the attack of the Congress(I) because of the open-door economic policy of the Rajiv government. Asked about his party's stand on computerisation, he said he felt it was good for the future of humanity. "But we want to make it clear that computerisation in a capitalist

society like India's will go against the interest of the common people," he commented.

The CPM general secretary reiterated the party's stand against any "merger" with the CPI. "We are not for it," he said and added that joint movements with the CPI would continue. "I do not understand why those who advocate CPI-CPI(M) merger do not want our party's merger with the RSP and Forward Bloc also," he observed.

On the RSP's observation that the Left Front governments in West Bengal and Tripura have failed in their mission to be used

as "the weapon of struggle of the common people," Mr Namboodiripad said that such an impression must have been based on an interpretation of the word "struggle" which was different from their understanding. In this connection, he cited the role of the two Left Front chief ministers at the recent meeting of the National Development Council where they offered a totally different Plan perspective. "Is this not carrying out a struggle of the common people?" he asked.

Asked whether it was time the Indian Left disowned the efficacy of parliamentary democracy—another contention of the RSP, Mr Namboodiripad said he did not think so. He also did not accept that the compulsion of the Left Front governments to implement the fiscal policies of the Congress(I) government at the Centre and its own eulogy for joint sector monopolists had "compromised" their position to an appreciable extent. "You see, fighting election under the present system is a compromise and then forming a government after securing a majority in an Assembly is also a compromise," he added.

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CSO: 4600/1265

INDIA

CPI-M REBUKES CPI OVER PRESS RELEASE

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 11 Dec 85 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Dec. 10.—The central leadership of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) today rebuked the CPI for publicizing its Central Executive Committee's resolution criticizing the Left Front Government in West Bengal for collaborating with monopoly houses and multinationals in joint industrial projects.

The CPI(M) general secretary, Mr E. M. S. Namboodiripad, today wrote to the CPI leader, Mr C. Rajeswara Rao, to remind him that his party's unit was a partner in the Left Front in West Bengal, as well as in the State Government.

Mr Namboodiripad pointed out to Mr Rao that his party's resolution, and its release to the Press, had come just before the by-elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Assembly in West Bengal. The resolution, criticizing the State Government's industrial policy, would undoubtedly damage the cause of the Left Front in the coming poll, he said.

Mr Namboodiripad asked Mr Rao to refer to his earlier communication which suggested that the leaders of the two parties at the Central level could discuss the industrial policy after the CPI(M) Party Congress in Calcutta at the end of this month.

According to Communist circles, the release of the CPI's Central Executive Committee resolution was "deliberate". It was stated that the Central leadership of the CPI wished to show the Congress (I) leadership that they opposed the CPI(M)-led Government's industrial policy in West Bengal.

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CSO: 4600/1275

INDIA

AGENCY REPORTS BUILDUP OF TROOPS ON PAKISTAN BORDER

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Dec 85 p 1

[Text] Jammu, December 1 (PTI)--At least nine Pakistani soldiers were killed in exchange of fire with Indian troops in Poonch and Tangdhar sectors of Jammu and Kashmir, according to official reports here. The reports said the unprovoked Pakistani firing which started on August 29 at Bagyaladara area of Poonch after Indian soldiers objected to Pakistani troops digging up defence positions on non-mans land, spread to other areas of the state. Two civilians from the Indian side were also injured in the firing by Pakistani troops at Bagyaladara areas, it added.

The reports from across the actual line of control revealed heavy concentration of Pak troops along the borders in the Jammu and Kashmir state with reinforcement in Pak-occupied Kashmir.

The reports said there was a heavy build-up on the borders of Pak troops with the construction of new defence roads, bridges and multipurposes helipads at various places, including an underground airstrip at Muzafarabad.

The reports said the airstrip, under construction of an area of eight acres would be the first of its kind in the northern frontier areas of Pakistan. This airstrip will be used as the headquarters of the air forces in Pakistan the reports said.

The reports said that the soldiers were killed in the continuing intermittent firing between Indian and Pakistani troops at Rumbliidhar in Sunderbani Laamloraka in Nowshera in the border district of Rajouri and Balnoi, Barooti, Panjni and Bagyaladara areas.

Meanwhile, official sources revealed the Indian side also suffered casualties in Bagyaladara and Nowshera sectors, but declined to disclose the number.

Earlier this week, two Pakistan soldiers were killed and several injured in an encounter with Indian troops at Tangdhar area in the Kupwara district of the Kashmir valley.

Command Formation

The Aliabad area, a summer resort in the Dara Hajipeer area, had earlier been converted into a command formation by the Pakistan defence authorities. Two more garrison headquarters at Bagh and Kotly were also recently created.

Reports said Pakistani troops had intensified its defence activities in the area and were conducting larger-scale military exercises.

Pakistan has further increased the strength of its troops in Dara Haji Pee Poonch and Uri sectors and deployed mujahids, razakrs and S.S.G. guerrillas in large numbers along the forward positions, reports said.

The mujahids and razakars infiltrated into Kashmir valley for subversion and sabotage operations during the 1965 Indo-Pak conflict but the organisations were disbanded because of their failure. Reports say they have now been reorganised and equipped with sophisticated weapons.

The two guerilla organisations have also been trained by the Chinese guerilla units in modern techniques of guerilla warfare and sabotage at two training centres at Chirat near Murrie and Kallamullah in the Hajipeer area, reports said.

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CSO: 4600/1262

INDIA

BORDER SECURITY FORCE CHIEF TALKS TO PRESS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 1 Dec 85 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, November 30.

FOR effective patrolling of the eastern and western borders and preventing infiltrators, smugglers and illegal immigrants, the strength of the BSF will have to be doubled, according to Mr. M. C. Mishra, director-general, Border Security Force.

Though the problems have compounded manifold "we are as thick or as thin (on the Punjab border) as we were 20 years ago," Mr. Mishra told correspondents yesterday. He was speaking on 20 years of the BSF. According to his assessment, another ten battalions should be raised.

His attention was drawn to the fact that several ministers had said that extremist elements in Punjab were trained in Pakistan. This implied that these elements could cross the border at will. He was asked how he reacted to the minister's statements. Mr. Mishra said that it meant the BSF would have to be more vigilant.

He agreed that the smugglers on the Punjab border had shifted their activities to the Barmer and Kutch area. There had been a phenomenal rise in the seizures in this area by the BSF on account of its stepped-up vigilance. In 1983, on the Rajasthan-Gujarat border the seizures were to the tune of Rs. 62.98 lakhs. Up to October this year, this figure had gone up to Rs. 19.08 crores. This included a notable seizure of heroin weighing 325 kg. worth Rs. 16 crores in the Barmer area.

In Amritsar, gold biscuits worth Rs. 30 lakhs were seized from the smugglers. Mr. Mishra denied that there was

a rise in the smuggling of opium on the Pakistan border. The BSF had seized on the eastern and western borders goods worth more than Rs. 25.49 crores in 1984, compared to Rs. 4.70 crores in 1983 and Rs. 8.63 crores in 1984.

Mr. Mishra denied that BSF personnel manning the Indo-Bangladesh border were "in league" with the illegal immigrants and added that "allegations are easy to make."

To prevent border crossing in the eastern sector by illegal immigrants, "we would like to be thick on the ground," he said. He agreed that a thicker BSF presence could be as effective as barbed-wire fencing.

Mr. Mishra said there was no conflict between the BSF and the army or other agencies such as the Assam Rifles or Indo-Tibetan Border Force. Each one had its own assigned role and there was no overlapping. He did not see much merit in creating a joint command for the BSF, ITBF and Assam Rifles. When an organisation became too big, he pointed out, it became too unwieldy.

Mr. Mishra also did not agree that the work of the BSF on international borders had seriously been affected owing to the heavy deployment of its battalions for law and order purposes. Only 17 per cent of its strength was deployed for such purposes.

However, he said that previously the BSF would go to the states for law and order purposes and come out quickly. Of late the BSF could not do that "for months together."

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CSO: 4600/1260

INDIA

PAPER REPORTS DEVELOPMENTS IN INDO-USSR TRADE

Characteristics of Trade

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 11 Dec 85 p 9

[Article by D.G. Gupte]

[Text] Bombay, December 10--The trade between India and the Soviet Union is expected to go up by nearly twice its present volume in the next five years as a sequel to the agreement which will be signed in Moscow by Mr Arjun Singh, Union commerce minister, and Mr Aristov, Soviet minister for foreign trade, shortly.

Exporters feel that to achieve this objective certain hurdles which have hampered exports to the USSR need to be removed.

From a small beginning of a few crores of rupees in 1953, the trade between the two countries has already touched an annual mark of Rs 4,600 crores. The trade turnover has risen substantially in the past five years from Rs 1,810 crores in 1979-80 to Rs 4,600 crores in 1984-85. Nearly 80 per cent of India's imports from the USSR constitute crude oil and petroleum products and the balance industrial raw materials and capital equipment.

Exports from India to the USSR constitute agricultural and related products, textiles, knitware, engineering goods, jute manufactures and leather products.

During the last two years the bilateral trade balance has moved in favour of the Soviet Union as the Soviet Union failed to respect its trade plan obligation in the case of certain products like cosmetics, detergents, aluminium power cables and tobacco. Against a target of Rs 2,500 crores, exports of all products from India booked by the Soviets in the first five months of 1985 amounted to only Rs 1,900 crores. India has finalised imports worth Rs 2,100 crores early this year.

Taking cognisance of higher quantum of exports from India to the USSR, even several multinational companies have been considering to manufacture their products in India for exports to the USSR.

The distinct characteristics of the Russian business have to be kept in mind while attempting to increase exports from India to that country. It is all government-owned business. Strict specifications and delivery schedules are attached to each and every export orders. Moreover, not all business is on the basis of letters of credit. Lately, there is greater reliance on cash against documents (CAD).

It has been found that if the supplies are to specifications and delivery schedules are maintained strictly, there is no difficulty in realising payments. Quality of the products is governed by export inspection certificates, issued by the Indian authorities to cover individual shipments.

Bankers' Attitude

Exporters, however, complain that bankers do not seem to be fully informed of the special characteristics of the trade between the two countries.

An exporter of printing line equipment could not get lines of credit from a bank and, therefore, was unable to pay the manufacturer on time, with the result export shipments were delayed.

Another manufacturer, having received a large export order, pointed out that it was difficult for him to convince the bankers on the terms of payment of CAD in lieu of a letter of credit. The banker was of the opinion that in the absence of a L/C, preshipments credit could not be processed. The manufacturer pointed out that the bills against export shipments were drawn on the lending banks and, therefore, the business was not 'clean' as was made out to be.

While the bankers are fully justified in taking steps to protect their interests, they should keep it in mind the nature of the export business to the Soviet Union and the norms thereof. After all, the credit record of the USSR is excellent and the country has honoured all the commitments if the order specifications and delivery schedules are met.

It is, therefore, necessary for the banks to have a special monitoring cell to handle Indo-USSR trade. This cell should keep the various officers informed of the developments on the trade account and the lending officers should be provided with proper feedback information upon which they can arrive at suitable credit decisions.

At present, the Exim Bank of India does not entertain credit applications in rupee trade. This matter also needs review.

Yet another bottleneck is said to be in the issue of advance licences. To promote exports, the Union ministry of commerce considers applications for advance licences for the import of required raw materials at international prices. However, many exporters complain that issue of advance licences is delayed or rejected on minor grounds.

A rubber product manufacturing unit presently in the process of executing its order is yet to receive advance licence, although nearly 35 percent of the order has already been executed. It is required to procure raw materials in the domestic market at the price double the international market prices.

Soviet Machinery Exhibition

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 Dec 85 p 10

[Text] Bombay, December 14--A specialised exhibition of Soviet machinery and industrial equipment will be opened here on Sunday. The exhibition which is to be held December 28, will have on display the products and latest technology of more than one hundred Soviet industrial enterprises, research institutes and organisations.

Among these will be major Soviet enterprises manufacturing export products, 26 foreign trade associations and the USSR state committee for foreign economic relations. There will also be a special exposition of the export potential of Leningrad which has twin-city relations with Bombay.

According to Mr Leonid S. Goudirya, director of the exhibition, this is the first time the USSR is holding such an exhibition in India. Unlike the Soviet exhibitions held annually within the frames of the Delhi International Trade Fair, this one is not of a general nature, he said. Most of the exhibits, he said, had been selected in accordance with the suggestions made by the FICCI and the Association of Indian Engineering Industry (AIEI).

The exhibition, he said, would provide a vivid picture of some aspects of Indo-Soviet economic cooperation, development of the Soviet economy, and export potential of the USSR. He expressed the hope that both the government and private sectors in India would show interest in the novelties of Soviet science and engineering.

Mr Goudirya said that in the guidelines for the economic and social development of the USSR for 1986-90 and until the year 2000, it was envisaged to increase capital investment in engineering industry 1.8 times during the coming five years in comparison with the previous plan. This, he said, would make it possible to start full-scale production of new efficient and competitive machines and equipment. The Soviet engineering industry had registered a growth 125 times over during the last 45 years against a growth 24 times over in the output of all Soviet industries during the same period.

Soviet exports, he said, now comprise more equipment for atomic, thermal and hydroelectric power plants, electronic equipment and instruments, high precision metal cutting machine tools and programme-controlled machine tools, high capacity blast furnaces, metallurgical, mining and oil equipment as well as aviation facilities, tractors, motor vehicles, instruments, and consumer goods like refrigerators, vacuum clearancers, TV sets and radio sets.

Mr Valeri I. Pozdnyakov, deputy trade commissioner of the USSR in India, said that India had become the USSR's biggest trading partner among the developing nations and had moved into the seventh place in USSR's trade with capitalist countries. By the end of 1985, the two countries will have completed another five year agreement for the period 1981-85. The total volume of turnover in these five years is expected to touch 13 million roubles which is 2.5 times higher compared to the previous five-year period of 1976-80.

Mr Pozdnyakov attributed the marked progress in Soviet-Indian trade to the existing mechanism of payments adopted in trade and economic relations by the two countries and the planned long-term nature of Indo-Soviet trade relations. The USSR, he said, had become a guarantee for India's products in the present conditions of a destabilised world capitalist economy.

Indian exports to the USSR were changing in structure and becoming more diversified, he said. The share of finished products in Soviet imports from India had grown to 46 percent in 1984, while that of manufactured goods had grown by 12 percent. In absolute figures, Soviet imports of manufactured goods from India increased from 16 million roubles in 1975 to 154 million roubles in 1984, he said. Mr Pozdnyakov said that to ensure a further steady growth in trade, it was imperative not only to expand the range of products exchanged by the two countries, but to accelerate an exchange of technologies, licences, know-how, and to look forward to new forms of trade co-operation like production co-operation and joint ventures.

Mr Pozdnyakov said that contracts will shortly be signed for supply of Soviet textile machinery to the National Textile Corporation (NTC) as well as some units in the private sector. He suggested that one area for Indo-Soviet co-operation could be manufacture of spare parts for USSR machinery in India.

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CSO: 4600/1274

INDIA

CANADA GIVES ASSURANCE IT WILL CURB TERRORISTS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Dec 85 p 1

[Unsigned article: "Canada to Curb Terrorists"]

[Text] New Delhi, December 18--Canada has assured India that it would do all that was possible under its laws to deal with the problem of Sikh extremists.

This was conveyed by the visiting Canadian secretary of state for external affairs, Mr Charles Joseph Clark, to the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, during a 40-minute meeting today.

Canada has also submitted a draft extradition treaty for consideration and a team of legal experts may visit India after its reaction is known. This treaty would facilitate greater co-operation between the two countries in curbing Sikh terrorists.

During his talks with the external affairs minister, Mr B.R. Bhagat, Mr Clark also called for greater co-operation between the security and intelligence agencies of the two countries.

The Prime Minister is understood to have expressed satisfaction over the steps being taken by Canada. Mr Clark pointed out that it was a matter of common concern and also stated that the problem in Canada was being created by a handful of Sikhs while a majority of them shared the government's concern.

Bilateral economic co-operation figured prominently in Mr Clark's talks with Mr Gandhi, coal, oil, and gas and aeronautics were some of the areas in which Canada offered increased collaboration.

The two countries signed a protocol under which Canada will provide about Rs 200 crores as credit for the purchase of equipment for the oil and gas sector. Under another protocol, Canada will give Rs 5 crores as grant for Indian training requirements.

The protocols were signed in the presence of the finance minister, Mr V.P. Singh and Mr Clark. Mr Singh emphasised the need for increased imports from India to rectify the adverse trade balance.

According to Canadian sources, Mr Clark and Mr Gandhi also discussed the follow-up measures regarding South Africa, the situation in Afghanistan and the outcome of the SAARC summit in Dhaka. Mr Gandhi also acquainted Mr Clark with his discussions with the Pakistan President, Gen Zia-ul-Haq yesterday.

Mr Clark also extended an invitation to the Prime Minister to visit Canada.

The Canadian secretary, who is accompanied by a group of parliamentarians and a business delegation, told a luncheon meeting organised by the Canadian high commission that he had signalled to the Indian authorities Canada's readiness to intensify co-operation to curb international terrorism.

"We want to ensure that the violent activities of a few do not threaten the co-operation and the friendship of the vast majorities of both Canada and India seek," he said.

A line had to be drawn between dissent and violent confrontation and noted that sometimes dissent could challenge the very integrity of the country. Canada, he said, would not tolerate an attack on the basic rules of democracy.

Mr Clark said Asia and the Pacific region was a prime focus for Canada's trading efforts and the two-way trade with India this year was expected to reach \$750 million. Canadian firms were seriously pursuing opportunities for industrial co-operation including joint ventures and technology transfer. A Canadian trade office would shortly be opened in Bombay and a second Canadian bank would be coming to India, he said.

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CSO: 5650/0068

INDIA

HASHMIR 'FACT SHEET' ON ANTITERRORIST EFFORTS NOTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA, in English 12 Dec 85 p 9

[Unsigned article: "Shah Govt Issues 'Fact-Sheet'"]

[Text]

JAMMU, December 11.

THE G. M. Shah government today took the unprecedented step of issuing a "fact-sheet" in an attempt to set the record straight concerning allegations regarding its non-performance and of being soft towards anti-national and secessionist elements.

The 11-page fact-sheet has been issued against the backdrop of the increasing criticism of the Shah government and its deteriorating relations with the Congress with whose support it continues to remain in office. Some recent remarks by the chief minister, though not denied by him but by one of his ministerial colleagues, have further embittered relations between the two parties.

The first eight pages covered familiar terrain — the events leading to the ouster of Dr. Farooq Abdullah and the installation of Mr. Shah as chief minister, the crisis in the hotel and tourism industry and the steps taken by the government to alleviate the problem and the development works undertaken by the new regime during the 17 months it has been in power.

The 'fact-sheet', issued while the chief minister is out of the state, refers to the steps taken by the police to deal with subversive elements. Over 130 persons, described as anti-national elements, have been detained under the Public Safety Act.

These include members of the Majlis-I-Shoor, the Jamaat-I-Islami and the pro-Pakistan People's League and Mahaz-E-Azadi.

Fifty-four cases, involving over 200 activists and anti-national groups, have been registered under the Unlawful Activities (prevention) Act and the Disruptive and Terrorist Activities (prevention) Act. Special courts have been established to expedite the cases and the services of seven government officials have been terminated for their involvement in anti-national activities.

A secessionist group, Al-Zehad, and a terrorist group, Saffron Tigers, were broken and members of a gang of anti-national elements affiliated with the Jammata-E-Islami were taken into custody for their involvement in three bomb explosions in Baramulla.

Mr. Shah, through the "fact-sheet", appealed to the people to make a "dispassionate assessment of our achievements which are an open book. Let us not be judged harshly on hearsay or bogeys thrown up by interested elements". He asked the people to judge him by his actions.

The catalogue of achievements ends with a grim warning. "I wish everyone to remember that the state especially the valley has been a playground of clandestine intrigue by internal and external forces to keep a sensitive problem alive to the discomfiture of our great country. The designs have been part of a bigger game to destabilise India".

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CSO: 5650/0066

INDIA

TERRORIST BUILDUP REPORTED IN PUNJAB

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 8 Dec 85 p 9

[Text] Chandigarh, Dec 7--Extremists in Punjab are again active if the events during the past few days are any indication, and the authorities should be worried about the developing situation in the State. It is learnt that the Central intelligence agencies are keeping the Centre informed about the trend.

The trend, in any case, is too obvious to observers within the State: yesterday, there was a shooting incident in Patiala, looting of a bus in Gurdaspur, robbery in Ludhiana and blockade of traffic by activists of the All-India Sikh Students' Federation at Batala. Even the most optimistic of order are hardly able to do much cases of ordinary crime. There have been similar incidents in the past few days reported from almost all parts of the State--as far as Ferozepur, Ludhiana, Amritsar and Gurdaspur.

These incidents point to one major development: terrorist activity is once again building up and that the authorities, including those concerned with law and order, are hardly able to do much to prevent them or even to take effective follow-up action.

The terrorists are clearly challenging, even provoking, the State administration to deal with them. In this context, shooting of a trader in Barnala Mandi, home town of the Chief Minister, attack on the head priest of Golden Temple and shootings against a few police officers are significant.

While the State Government, including the Chief Minister himself, have tried to minimize the seriousness of the situation by saying that there have been attempts at robbery along with shootings and they might be the work of ordinary criminals, those who have been studying the trend more seriously say that there is a definite objective behind the robberies connected with these incidents. Apparently, the terrorists are trying to mobilize financial resources. In most cases, they have been using less sophisticated weapons--mostly pistols--and are not said to have been carrying firearms like sten guns. In many cases, they have been on foot or on stolen scooters. The much-feared motorcycle riders have not

reappeared. Incidentally, of late there have also been quite a few cases of scooter snatchings. It is possible that the terrorists who are trying to regroup need more firearms and vehicles and that is why they are going in for a robbery along with shootings. The attacks against police personnel can also not be ignored as much attacks are meant to demoralize the law enforcement agencies.

Almost all Opposition parties in the State have expressed serious concern over the recent upsurge of incidents of violence and have asked the Government to take urgent and effective steps. Some of them have even hinted that pre-Bluestar conditions are developing though on a smaller scale, possibly because of limited resources at the disposal of the extremists.

The Opposition parties feel that the ruling party is concerned more about its internal problems rather than dealing with terrorists, which was the main problem of the State. The entire energy of the dominant group in the ruling party is going into strengthening itself rather than tackling the main problem, they say, and remind that the formation of the Government by them is a means to an end and not an end by itself.

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CSO: 5650/0063

INDIA

RAJIV ASKS PUNJABIS TO FIGHT TERRORISM

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Dec 85 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, December 5 IPTI)--The Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, today asked Punjabis to wage a decisive battle against terrorism which was eating into the vitals of the nation.

Addressing a two-day World Punjabi Congress here, the prime minister said that extremists had no religion. This was evident from the dastardly attack on the head granthi of the Golden Temple, Giani Sahib Singh, in the holy precincts of Golden Temple on the birthday of Guru Nanak Dev--an apostle of peace.

The prime minister said "we have to fight the menace of terrorism not only within the country but have to reach out to those people who were spearheading the secessionist movement from abroad. They had gone wayward because of their weak cultural links back home," he added.

Stressing the need for creating an awareness among the people against the cult of violence, the prime minister said the Centre and the state government were aware of the dimensions of the problem, but the problem could not be dealt with on administrative level alone.

The prime minister, copiously quoting from the teachings of great Sikh gurus, said Punjab could once again break new grounds in the fields of development and culture by pursuing the path shown by a host of savants.

He said Punjab being a border state had borne the brunt of many foreign aggression through the centuries. Several cultures came in here which were absorbed and assimilated. This capacity to absorb other cultures gave the people of Punjab a new strength and stamina, he added.

The prime minister also released a book entitled "Phantoms of Chittagong" authored by Maj Gen S.S. Uban.

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CSO: 5650/0062

INDIA

UTTAR PRADESH TO BAN REPORTS ON EXTREMIST ACTIVITIES

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 Dec 85 p 1

[Article by Ashwini Bhatnagar]

[Text] Lucknow, December 4--The Uttar Pradesh government had decided to impose a virtual news blackout on extremist activity in the state and police measures to curb it.

Highly-placed sources said the decision had been taken on the advice of Central Intelligence Agencies.

They said that henceforth no details would be given to the media on the number of arrests, identity and location of arrested persons and anything else connected with the police operations in curbing the menace.

An exception is likely to be made in case of a major breakthrough or a big incident of sabotage.

The measure has been necessitated by the upsurge of extremist activity in Punjab during the last fortnight. It is being felt in official circles that a climate of fear may be created in this state by these developments coupled with publicity given to arrest of extremists or even suspected extremists.

Avoiding Ill-feeling

Moreover, the Centre feels that the alienation between two communities would be compounded by "irritants" of reports on police action against extremist elements.

It is feared that the reports may lead to branding of a particular community even when only miniscule sections may be involved in terrorism.

The thinking on such a step was reflected soon after a major mopping up operation was launched in the Terai region on October 18. During the first few days, the home department explicitly stated the number of "extremists" arrested but subsequently asked newsmen to affix the word "suspected" before extremists. Twenty three "suspected extremists" were arrested during the campaign, which lasted about ten days.

The tenor again changed late last month when the director general of police in reply to a question from the TOINS shot back: "What terrorist? We do not have any terrorist activity in Uttar Pradesh."

An official spokesman told newsmen in September that 13 districts in the state had been identified as being terrorist-prone and detailed plans were being prepared to bring such elements to the book.

It is learnt that police officials believe extremists get much information of possible police moves from the media even before the raids are conducted because newsmen are briefed by over-enthusiastic official. Part of the blame for the escape of 11 hard-core extremists from Terai region in October has been apportioned to news reports on the conduct of the mopping up operations.

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CSO: 5650/0060

INDIA

GERMAN BUSINESSMEN REPORT STABILITY, PRODUCTIVITY

Dueseldorf HANDELSBLATT in German 2 Jan 86 p 8

[Article by ho: "German Firms Again Doing Good Business"/After Period of Coolness, German business in India Again on Upswing]

[Text] "Two years ago, German industry rediscovered India. We all make profits here, the country is politically and economically healthy."

With this optimistic assessment, Eberhard Baltin, vice president of the German-Indian Chamber of Commerce in Bombay, surprised German economic journalists on a recent visit to that country. Baltin, head of the Hoechst India Ltd. in Bombay, is as optimistic as his colleague Hartmut Bauder, manager of BASF India. The United States holds first place in economic activities, followed by the FRG. Bauder regrets a certain coolness in political relations. German political visitors to India are few; reporting is often negative and one-sided.

Without a doubt, this situation is also due to the clumsy Indian bureaucracy, which hinders progress of the liberalization of the economy started in 1979. Rajiv Gandhi with his year-old additional reforms so far has not shortened noticeably passage through the administrative apparatus.

Bauder described the difficulties, giving an example he himself experienced and which is still unresolved. India is the second largest producer of leather in the world, and BASF is the largest producer of leather chemicals in India. In the course of import liberalizations, the tariff for finished chemicals was reduced to 45 percent. The raw materials needed for production in India, however, continue to be subject to a tariff of 145 percent. Rising imports of finished chemicals caused BASF sales to drop drastically. So the enterprise requested a tariff of 45 percent for raw materials, also. According to Bauder, three ministries are entangled in this case. It is difficult to get them all around the same table. BASF cannot hold out more than 6 months. It is also difficult to get permission to lay off personnel; an application takes 3 to 4 months.

BASF does not produce only leather chemicals in India. In two factories, they also produce pesticides, dyes and styropor. They also have small holdings in two pharmaceutical works. Sales for 1985 are reported at about 350 million Indian Rupees (1 DM = 4.5 Rupees), an 11 percent increase over

the previous year. According to Indian regulations, foreigners may not hold more than 40 percent of an enterprise's capital stock. Under certain conditions, however, this share may go as high as 100 percent. Permission by the central government is needed for investments above \$ 5 million. Changes are also subject to approval. The government wants to deconcentrate congested areas. Instead of expanding their plant in Thana near Bombay, BASF had to build a second factory in Bihar. The Ludwigshafen parent company has a holding of 50 percent in the Indian subsidiary; the rest is widely distributed over the stock market.

Hoechst's commitment in India ranks first among German chemical holdings. The group showed annual sales of about 3.4 billion Rupees in 1984. Hoechst has direct or indirect holdings (for instance, through the Uhde subsidiary) in six companies. The parent company owns 40 percent of the capital stock of Hoechst India Ltd. This largest holding will account for about 1.5 billion Rupees in sales in 1985. "United Breweries" are partners with 39 percent capital stock, the rest being held by independent shareholders. The major production consists of pharmaceuticals, which now make up 10 percent of total Indian pharmaceutical exports. The largest share of them goes to the Soviet Union (180 million out of 182 million Rupees).

All three large German chemical firms also produce insecticides in India. Among them, Bayer is the leader. After an Indian enterprise, Bayer India Ltd. in Bombay (total sales 820 million Rupees) holds second place on the market. Hoechst is also among the 10 leading enterprises; BASF, which only started production in this field 3 years ago, lags farther behind. Overall, the German firms sold insecticides in the amount of DM 250 million and thus hold about one-fourth of the total market in their hands.

The use of agricultural chemicals, including fertilizers, is still extremely low in India. The state maintains a list of 12 products subject to strict examination. Some time ago, DDT was prohibited for use in agriculture. Through the state advisory apparatus, which is to reach every last village, directions for use are given. The firms maintain their own teams which cooperate with the state authorities. Last year, BASF alone assembled 100,000 farmers in its advisory tents at village meetings.

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CSO: 4620/16

INDIA

TAMIL UNITED LIBERATION FRONT ISSUES STATEMENT IN MADRAS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 10 Dec 85 p 1

[Text] Madras, December 9 (PTI, UNI)--Hundreds of Tamil youths were being arrested, detained and tortured at Sri Lankan army camps, despite the ceasefire agreement with the militants, the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) politburo said here today.

In a statement, the politburo said it was shocked and horrified by the atrocities committed by security forces in eastern Trincomalee district. Appealing to the world community, particularly India, to raise their voices against the 'political murders,' it said they must not remain silent spectators.

The killings of young political prisoners were most frequent and in larger number than in South Africa and some countries in Central America, it said.

The politburo said 54 youths were arrested in Trincomalee district and removed to an army camp. On November 17, seven young men who were hospitalised after having been tortured at an army camp in Fort Fredrick, were stated to be missing. It was feared that they had been killed and their bodies disposed of, it said.

Magisterial enquiries ordered by the government would only be a 'farce' as the only witnesses would be the soldiers themselves, it added.

Tamil Civilians

Meanwhile, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has said that 12 innocent Tamil civilians were rounded up at a village in Trincomalee district on December 7 and killed.

The young wives of five of the executed men and another girl were raped by army personnel, it said in a press release here, adding that the continuing campaign of 'state terror' was forcing the Tamil population to flee from the area.

The TULF contested the government's claim that the ten Tamil youths killed in the Seruwila military camp in Trincomalee district were shot dead while attempting to escape.

The statement said it had become a practice with the government to put out such "fabricated" accounts of attempted escapes even in the face of "irrefutable evidence" to the contrary.

On occasions where the fact of arrest was in doubt, the bodies of the Tamil victims were burned to destroy all evidence of identification so that it could be claimed later that they were not arrested at all.

Consensus Reached

Washington--A two-day conference on the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka reached the consensus that a political settlement based on devolution of power was the only solution.

The conference was sponsored by the Centre for international development and conflict management and the International centre for ethnic studies, Kandy, and the University of Maryland, near the U.S. capital during the weekend.

In effect this means a federal structure, but the Sri Lankan participants said that the word federation was not acceptable. So, after considering and hesitating over another word, namely autonomy, it was decided that the same idea could be expressed by the phrase devolution of power.

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CSO: 4600/1270

INDIA

BHAGAT ANSWERS QUESTIONS ON RAJIV STATEMENT

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 4 Dec 85 p 1

[Text] External Affairs Minister B.R. Bhagat clarified in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday that India's options on making a nuclear bomb were still open despite Mr Rajiv Gandhi's reported statement in Japan that India will not make one even if Pakistan acquired it.

While clarifying queries on his statement in Parliament on the Prime Minister's visit to Vietnam and Japan, Mr Bhagat repeatedly said that he saw no "contradiction" between what Mr Gandhi said in Japan and what he has been saying in the country. "Did he ever say that we will make the bomb?" he counter questioned.

The External Affairs Minister said, "Our present position is that we are not making a nuclear bomb. But it does not bind us for future."

"No country, much less we, are going to compromise in any way our security interests which is paramount," he said.

"We have always maintained that our nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes even though India had nuclear implosion technology," he said and reiterated that "we have definite information that Pakistan has a nuclear weapon programme which introduces a new dimension in our security perspective."

"We have to keep our options open for our security," the Minister remarked.

Earlier, members from the Opposition stressed that if Mr Gandhi had overruled the possibility of India making a nuclear bomb even if Pakistan made one, he was closing India's option. On the other hand, in Parliament and elsewhere he has said that India's options were open.

Mr Bhagat said that Mr Gandhi's visit to Vietnam and Japan had ushered in a "new stage" in the consolidation and development of India's bilateral relations, not only for mutual benefit, but for strengthening peace and prosperity in Asia and in the world.

India was happy that Vietnam's relations with the ASEAN countries have improved and talks were being held to find a solution to the Kampuchean problem. India was also happy that Vietnam was ready to talk to all parties involved in the issue, barring Pol Pot who has been responsible for butchering nearly half of his fellow Kampucheans.

India and Vietnam shared identical or similar views on a number of important international issues, said Mr Bhagat. "On Kampuchea, the Vietnamese leaders affirmed their desire to arrive at an early political solution and emphasised their commitment to withdraw Vietnamese troops by 1990 or even earlier, in the event of an acceptable political solution being found," he said.

He also highlighted the economic and technical assistance being extended to Vietnam by India, saying that if any country deserved assistance, it was Vietnam. Mr H.C. Mohunta (Lok Dal), however, wanted a more substantial assistance from India to that country.

The science and technology agreement arrived with Japan, informed Mr Bhagat, was an "enabling agreement," that is, agreeing in principle to cooperate in these fields. The specific areas in which such cooperation will be extended are to be decided by the Indo-Japanese joint commission which has been constituted for the purpose.

Its first meeting will be held in Delhi early next year, he disclosed.

Reacting to a member's dissatisfaction with the "minor" assistance being given by Japan to India, Mr Bhagat said that the technology for the gas-based power plant in Assam was the latest which would revolutionise technology in that field. He denied that the plant was being set up in Assam because of political considerations.

To a query by Mr Chaturanam Mishra (CPI) whether Mr Gandhi had raised the issue of a new axis being formed among the US, Japan and other Pacific powers, Mr Bhagat did not give a forthright answer. He merely reiterated Japan's commitment to peace.

Opposition members were also critical of Mr Gandhi himself not making a statement on his visit which, they felt, was an affront to Parliament. In fact, proceedings were held up for some time as one member after another raised this issue just as Mr Bhagat got up to speak. Finally, Deputy Chairman Najma Heptullah had to intervene vigorously to enable Mr Bhagat make his statement.

Mr Bhagat pointed out that it was the norm for the External Affairs Minister to make a statement on the Prime Minister's visits abroad and that he was merely fulfilling his duty.

He defended the Prime Minister's visit to Vietnam and Japan as "very timely, very essential and very useful" and it would give new momentum to India's relations with these countries.

The members who sought clarifications were: Mr Chaturanan Mishra (CPI), Mr M.S. Gurupadaswamy (Janata), Mr R. Mohanarangam (AIADMK), Mr S.W. Dhabe (Cong-S), Mr V. Gopalsami (DMK), Mr Jaswant Singh (BJP), Mr P. Upendra (TD) and Mr S.C. Mohunta (LD).

The discussion had its lighter moments with talk revolving round Mr Gandhi's visit to the Tokyo zoo. Mr Jaswant Singh (BJP) wanted only one clarification--how were the two elephants, Asha and Daya, gifted by India to Japan a few years ago, doing? Mr Bhagat, perhaps, missed the sarcasm and went into an elaborate explanation on the importance of these elephants in building "emotional ties" between the two countries.

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CSO: 4600/1266

INDIA

PAPERS REPORT RAJIV REMARKS, ACTIVITIES IN TOKYO

30 Nov Press Conference

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 1 Dec 85 p 1

[Article by Kirit Bhaumik]

[Text]

TOKYO, November 30.

THE Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, today reiterated that India's nuclear programme would remain entirely peaceful.

He disclosed that he had invited the Pakistan President, Gen. Zia-ul-Haq, to the inauguration of the Kalpakkam fast-breeder reactor on December 16 to reassure him of India's intentions.

At the end of his three-day stay in the Japanese capital, the Prime Minister told a press conference at the National Press Club that India's nuclear programme was different from that of Pakistan. He said India's nuclear programme was an open one. To emphasise this, he pointed out that it would be open even to the Pakistan President.

He explained that India's non-acceptance of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty had nothing to do with Pakistan's attitude on the issue. India would not sign the treaty because it was inequitable. The superpowers had not honoured their part of the treaty like stopping vertical proliferation and there had been no disarmament.

Questions at the press club related mainly to India's relations with its neighbours, and the focal point was why the nuclear issue with Pakistan could not be resolved.

Mr. Gandhi said in reply to a question that his understanding of the Afghanistan problem, after his talks with the U.S. President, Mr. Reagan, and the Soviet communist party general secretary, Mr. Gorbachov, was that both the Americans and the Soviets wanted to solve the problem.

He felt that the Soviet Union wanted to pull out its troops from Afghanistan and the Americans were willing to have talks on this. But there were some complications. The Soviet Union wanted guarantees.

The Prime Minister, who has come here from Hanoi, said the Vietnamese leaders had assured him about their intention to pull out of Kampuchea by 1990. Some dispute, pending with some South-East Asian countries, could form the basis for talks on the pull-out issue.

On Asian security, he said Mr. Gorbachov had not given him any specific proposal. He thought that there should certainly be security in Asia, but not through pacts.

In South Asia, for example, security was being strengthened through the SARC. The first SARC summit would be held within a week. Nine areas had been identified where co-operation would be developed.

Mr. Gandhi said India had been working hard to build bridges with Pakistan. Earlier, there had been only backward movement. Now, if there was a step backward, there were two or

three steps forward. He had met President Zia three or four times. He would meet him again twice in the next ten weeks.

He categorically told a questioner that he did not owe the prime ministership to destiny.

PTI adds: Replying to a suggestion that India and Pakistan might join the treaty together, he said India had proposed a mutual treaty of peace, friendship, and co-operation and this could "include everything," but not NPT.

"We have shown over the past 11 years that we have no intention to develop a nuclear weapon. We have the capability but we have not developed one and few countries in the world could have set an example like that," he said.

On India's problems with China the Prime Minister said there had been talks and meetings with Chinese leaders and officials and some progress had been made. But there were "tremendous difficulties." It might

take "quite some time." But he added: "We are hopeful we will be able to solve" the problems with both Pakistan and China.

Later, Mr. Gandhi left for Japan's ancient capital of Kyoto this evening with an assurance of Japanese support for India's development efforts.

"There is much that is similar in our approach to world problems," Mr. Gandhi told a press conference at the end of his discussions with the Japanese Premier, Mr. Yasuhiro Nakasone, and leaders of government and business.

This, he said, "should help us to cooperate at the United Nations and elsewhere in the cause of peace and co-existence."

It also "should give impetus for further development of our bilateral relations," Mr. Gandhi said.

Japanese industry, he said, were now finding partners in both private and public sectors in India "as we move into the next phase of our industrialisation."

The Prime Minister said: "With the accent on superior quality, management and higher technology, it is our expectation that co-operation between our two countries will expand significantly."

On disarmament, he said he believed that both Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachov are working for peace, "but there are tremendous difficulties."

India, like Japan, is also disappointed that disarmament did not get as much place as it should have at the Geneva summit. "But at the same time we realise the complications that disarmament involves," he added.

Mr. Gandhi denied the non-aligned movement was losing its momentum. "It's today stronger than it has ever been," he said.

Mr. Gandhi also visited the port city of Kobe and met a group of some 400 Indian residents.

Mr. Gandhi told them that they have taken an important role in promoting friendship between India and Japan.

Mr. Gandhi leaves at noon tomorrow for India.

Achievements of Visit

Madras THE HINDU in English 2 Dec 85 p 9

[Article by K.V. Narain]

[Text]

TOKYO, Dec. 1.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's four-day official visit to Japan has been universally acclaimed in political and economic quarters in this country as having been a highly successful one in the sense that it has set the stage for a new era of closer cooperation between the two countries after indifference and drift in the past two decades.

As Mr. Gandhi himself put it, his talks with the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Yasuhiro Nakasone, revealed a degree of commonality of thought in the two countries' approach to international issues which had convinced him (Mr. Gandhi) that Japan and India can work together for peace in the world and prosperity of the peoples of the two countries.

On threshold of new phase: The Indian Prime Minister described Indo-Japanese relations as being on the threshold of a new phase. Addressing members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Diet (Parliament), Mr. Gandhi said, "My talks with Prime Minister Nakasone have set the stage. It is now for our parliamentarians and opinion-makers, our intellectuals and our artists, our industrialists and businessmen, to give a

meaningful content to this relationship. We look forward to intensifying our cooperation in all fields. There is no area of human endeavour in which we does not have something to give to each other, to share with each other. We are two great Asian democracies."

Newspaper editorials reflect Japan's satisfaction with the outcome of the visit. As the nationally-circulated, *Mainichi Shimbun* put it, "Mr. Gandhi's visit 'has contributed a great deal towards promoting the relations between the two countries.' Its editorial said that India and Japan, both in Asia, have great responsibility and influence for maintenance of peace and security in this region. India is also in a position to act as a bridge between the two superpowers," it said. "We are of the opinion that the cooperation between India and Japan is inseparable for the stability and prosperity of Asia and that is possible," it declared.

Mature perspectives: The leading English-language daily, *The Japan Times*, said Mr. Gandhi had impressed the Japanese with his mature perspectives on problems confronting him at home and abroad. It said that the agreements reached between the two countries for stepped up cooperation in the economic, scientific and

cultural fields 'will greatly help strengthen and broaden the relationship between the two nations.' It noted that the relationship between the two countries 'has fallen short of what it should have been for too many years.' The editorial said that the agreements and promises that have been made on the occasion of Mr. Gandhi's visit to Japan should be put into practice in such a manner that they will help modernise Indian industry and diversify production for export. It added that "the two nations can play a significant role in eliminating the threat of thermo-nuclear war from the earth."

Solid achievements: During his visit, a number of solid achievements were made. One of the most important was the comprehensive agreement on cooperation between the two Governments in science and technology. The agreement aims at further expansion of scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries and is expected to play an important role in the years ahead in joint endeavours in these areas by the two countries and contribute to technology transfers from Japan.

Special yen credit: The Japanese Government announced its decision to extend a special loan of 30 billion yen (\$150 millions) for the Assam gas turbine power plant and transmission lines project. Japan has already given a credit of 39.7 billion yen (about \$200 million) for the current fiscal year. Thus, Japan's development assistance for the current year amounts to an impressive \$350 millions. It is generally expected that the yen credits to India in future years will continue to be of this order of \$350 millions, which will bring India to the level of assistance the ASEAN countries are getting from Japan.

Japan has agreed to send as soon as possible a survey mission for building a hospital at the Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences in Uttar Pradesh. It is understood that it will fully equip the hospital with the most modern medical facilities.

Cultural exchanges: The two countries also agreed to strengthen cultural exchanges and it has been agreed that a 'Festival of India' will be held in Japan and a 'Japan Week' in India. Both are expected to take place some time next year. A Japan-India seminar is to be held

in Delhi next March with participation by Japanese and Indian intellectuals. As regards economic cooperation, India requested Japan to facilitate the transfer of technology and financial collaboration for modernisation of the Indian steel industry under the aegis of SAIL (Steel Authority of India Limited). Japan expressed its willingness to help promotion of such collaboration, but said that the collaboration for industrial modernisation should be discussed initially in detail between the parties concerned of the two countries. A similar understanding emerged in regard to collaboration for modernisation of the textile industry and the Railways.

During Mr. Gandhi's visit, Japanese and Indian business leaders met for the 18th general meeting of the Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee after agreeing on further expansion of economic exchanges between the two countries, including technological transfers from Japan to India in the electronics and automobile parts fields.

On transfer of know-how in such areas as management and quality control, Japan said it would be fruitful for India to promote collaboration with the Japanese private sector which has such know-how.

Foreign Ministers' meet: In their one-hour meeting on Friday, the External Affairs Minister, Mr. B. R. Bhagat, and his Japanese counterpart, Mr. Shintaro Abe, stressed the importance of high-level visits to each other's country to improve the quantum and the quality of their relationship and, in this context, they decided to resume the annual Foreign Ministers' meetings on bilateral matters. Mr. Bhagat invited Mr. Abe to visit New Delhi for talks next year.

The two Foreign Ministers also decided that officials of the two countries would begin talks soon on the subject of setting up joint projects in third countries. On the issue of the new round of trade talks under GATT, it was felt that the delegations of India and Japan should maintain close contacts to develop a consensus and make positive contributions. The Japanese side sought India's understanding and support for a resolution it had submitted to the United Nations on the role of the world body. From the Indian side, it was stated that India would support the resolution as long as there are no cuts in the U.N. programmes.

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CSO: 4600/1267

INDIA

RAJIV MEETS PRESS ON RETURN FROM JAPAN, VIETNAM

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 2 Dec 85 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 1--Mr Rajiv Gandhi said today that he would be willing to visit a nuclear plant in Pakistan provided it was meant for peaceful purposes, report PTI and UNI. He was replying to reporters' questions soon after his return from a visit to Vietnam and Japan.

Mr Gandhi said it was a coincidence that the inauguration of the "Dhruva" reactor at Kalpakkam, near Madras would be taking place on December 16, the day President Zia-ul-Haq wanted to visit India. It had, therefore, been decided to invite him to the function.

When a correspondent drew his attention to Pakistan's nuclear designs and said that the common man was scared of its consequences, the Prime Minister observed: "There is no need to fear" and added that adequate security precautions were being taken.

Describing his visit to Japan as a success, Mr Gandhi said he had found a similarity of position between the two countries on many issues. He said he had had very good talks with the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Nakasone, and "we have been able to move forward" in strengthening cooperation in technology and promoting trade. This did not mean that there was absolute similarity of views on every issue, but broadly, the Japanese views on several problems were similar to India's.

He told a correspondent that differing perceptions between the two countries on such issues as Kampuchea and Afghanistan "need not come in the way of greater collaboration."

Asked if the Sino-Indian border dispute had been discussed with Japanese leaders, Mr Gandhi said India had explained its position in this regard.

Mr Gandhi denied that India had modified its stand on having a third round of GATT negotiations without implementing the decisions of the Tokyo round.

He said he had taken up the matter of a proposed new round of GATT negotiations to include services with Washington during his visit there in June. He had made it clear that India was always willing to talk about "basic things without jeopardizing the interests of the developing countries," he added.

The Prime Minister said he saw no contradiction in India's decision to get foreign technology and the process of indigenization. The reason for going in for such technology was that the indigenization process had "not been able to adapt itself to requirements of quality standards and production levels" that could make Indian products competitive in international markets. If industries did not take advantage of higher technology and failed to improve quality and standards, it would be no advantage to the country, he added.

In an informal chat with reporters accompanying him during his five-day tour, the Prime Minister said his Government would soon bring about certain changes in its industrial policy to ensure that licence for technology transfer was not converted into a licence for making money, adds a report from Osaka. "If anybody tries to use the licence to cash in, they will not be allowed to survive and they will be in difficulties," he added.

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CSO: 4600/1261

INDIA

RESOLUTIONS OF WORLD PUNJABI MEET REPORTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Dec 85 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, December 7 (PTI).

THE World Punjabi Congress has voiced its opposition to the use of places of worship for political propaganda and demanded that no one in position of authority in a religious organisation should be allowed to become a legislator.

The two-day congress, which concluded here yesterday evening, declared in a unanimously adopted resolution that religions should not form the basis of any political state or party.

The resolution adopted amid thunderous applause from the participants, called upon the people to resist terrorism in any form as violence was repugnant to the democratic ethos of the nation.

The congress, by another resolution, hailed the Punjab accord and asked all parties concerned to implement it in letter and spirit.

The next World Punjabi Congress would be held in Ottawa in 1986.

According to the Lt. governor of Goa, Dr. Gopal Singh, the congress would be

preceded by a seminar in London.

Meanwhile, a joint meeting in Chandigarh, of the Punjab unit of Congress MPs, MLAs and DCC presidents today recommended to the Punjab government to take "strong and determined steps" to effectively handle the law and order situation in the state.

In Batala, three proclaimed offenders today surrendered to the Gurdaspur district police.

According to the district police chief, Mr. J. P. Virdi, one of them was identified as Navdeep singh of village Aliwal in the district. He was wanted in a bomb blast case in Batala Club on

February 28, 1984.

The Centre is keeping a close watch on the Punjab situation, with reports of a sudden spurt in terrorist activity coming in from various parts of the state, reports TOINS from Delhi.

The state government has assured the Centre that it would put down terrorism with a firm hand. The state finance minister, Mr. Balwant Singh, has met central leaders, including the Prime Minister.

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CSO: 4600/1268

7 February 1986

INDIA

FRENCH AEC ADVISER TELLS POLICY ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 Dec 85 p 9

[Text] France is willing to transfer nuclear power technology to any Asian nation, including Pakistan, if it was approached, Mr. Georges Vendryes, adviser to the French atomic energy commission, said today.

He told reporters that Pakistan had not approached his country so far for transfer of technology, though it had approached some other European countries with bids for its nuclear power programme.

The power director of the commission said France was convinced that nuclear power was the only way of generating the energy needed to match the growing needs of every country. It was for this reason that France supplied South Korea with two 900 MW units of pressurised water reactors (PWRs), he added.

Mr. Vendryes said France was ready for discussions with the Indian government for transfer of any technology if the latter wanted to have collaboration with his country.

Asked about China's nuclear power programme, he said his country had agreed to help set up two power units of 900 MW each at a site about 50 km. north of Hong Kong. At least two-thirds of the power generated would be consumed by Hong Kong, he added.

PTI adds: Mr. Vendryes said France was very keen to renew its nuclear co-operation with India. But at the moment, France itself was very keenly watching the performance of the 13 MW fast breeder test reactor (based on the French Rhapsodie reactor) as it was using a new fuel, plutonium-uranium carbide. "This is a fuel which no one has tried so far in the world and we would like to see how India fares," he said.

He said France was delighted at the successful commissioning of the FBTR in Kalpakkam and thought "it was a beautiful achievement", considering very few countries went in for fast breeders.

Talking about France's achievement in erecting the world's biggest fast breeder reactor, the 1200 MW super phoenix near Leon city, he said, first criticality had been achieved in September and the scientists were proceeding cautiously in generating only 30 per cent of its power.

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CSO: 5150/0051

INDIA

'CONGRESSIONAL SOURCE' CITED ON PAKISTAN BOMB CLAIM

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 23 Dec 85 p 1

[Text] WASHINGTON, Dec. 22. The CIA has said that China may have tested a nuclear bomb for Pakistan, according to a reliable Congressional source.

At secret meetings specially held for the house foreign affairs committee, the CIA admitted that seismic shocks produced in China's Lop Nor desert area in May 1983 were from a nuclear explosion, the source said. However, it said it had no means of knowing whether China tested the nuclear device on behalf of Pakistan or performed one of its own experiments.

The CIA's admission gives the lie to earlier statements by American and Scandinavian experts that the seismic shocks had come from an earthquake.

According to the intelligence agency, the nuclear explosions could have taken place either on May 13 or on May 15. These dates are important, as they could establish the complicity of Pakistan. It had been reported, presumably first by Soviet intelligence sources, that on May 15, 1983, Pakistan's foreign minister, Mr. Yaqub Khan, was present at the test site to watch the explosion. This reinforced the speculation that the Chinese were testing the bomb for Pakistan.

The Pakistan government tried to allay these doubts by stating that Mr. Khan was in Beijing, China's capital, on May 15 and not in the Chinese desert. However, nuclear test experts here counter this argument by stating that the actual test might have taken place on May 13 and the seismic reaction on May 15 could have been the aftershock. And on May 13, Mr. Khan and a number of Pakistan's nuclear experts might have been at the test site.

U.S. INQUIRY

In a determined search for the truth, a group of Congressmen pushed the matter further by asking the United States air force to provide all its secret surveillance data on the May 1983 test. The air force monitoring system in this field is considered the most reliable, but it pleaded that in the case of the Chinese test it had not received the human intelligence data from the CIA. Normally, the technical data collected by the air force and the human intelligence information gathered by the CIA are collated to reach a final and reliable conclusion.

The question that arises is: Can Pakistan be satisfied with a nuclear weapon that it has not tried itself? One answer is that the atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima had not been tested at all. Besides, every atomic weapon in a country's armoury is not tested. Only the design is tested and every bomb is made in accordance with it.

Through the Chinese test in 1983, Pakistan may have acquired nuclear weapons capability without losing American military aid. The assistance might have been cut off if it had conducted the test on its own soil.

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CSO: 5150/0055

INDIA

UNIONS SCORE 'CONCLUSIONS' OF LABOR CONFERENCE

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 8 Dec 85 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Dec. 7.—Leaders of the Communist unions, All-India Trade Union Congress and Centre of Indian Trade Unions have disagreed with several of the "conclusions" announced by the Government at the end of the recently concluded Indian Labour Conference.

They have said: "It is clear that in their anxiety to show an exaggerated picture of the achievements of the conference, officials of the Union Labour Ministry have even mentioned to the Press in their conclusions issues which were neither on the agenda nor discussed in the Indian Labour conference".

At the end of the meeting, the Ministry announced the "conclusions" and said that these would be circulated to the workers' and employers' representatives for their comments and suggestions.

In a joint statement here today the general secretary of the AITUC, Mr Indrajit Gupta, M.P. and the secretary of the CITU, Mr M. K. Pandhe, referred to several so-called "conclusions" to say that either there had been no agreement on the issues, or else these had not been discussed at all.

For instance, they stated that the Finance Minister's suggestion on raising Rs 35,000 crores for the Seventh Plan by the public sector undertakings had not been discussed and that reference to it should be deleted from the "conclusions".

They also said that there had been no consensus on workers' participation. Neither did the conference, according to them, "note with satisfaction the general improvement in the industrial relations situation", nor felt that benches in the High Courts and Supreme Court should be set up for labour matters. "A suggestion made by one member cannot be called a consensus", they said.

The absence of any reference to the demand for an amendment to the Constitution to restore to the workers their right to defend themselves before penal action is taken against them and of the suggestion for penal action against employers who do not pay workers' contribution to life insurance and provident fund has also been objected to.

The union leaders said there had also been no consensus on a regional minimum wage pending agreement on a national minimum wage as stated in the Government's "conclusions".

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CSO: 4600/1269

INDIA

PAPER REPORTS SPY NETWORK IN AIRLINE OFFICE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 Dec 85 p 1

[Article by Madhu Shetye]

[Text]

Bombay, Dec 9—Have the sleuths been able to bust the espionage ring operating in the Bombay office of Lufthansa, the West German airlines?

The question has been talked about in Bombay's political circles following sending back of three agents of the Bundes Grenz Schutz, German border force, by Lufthansa flight LH 695 on 27 November.

The three agents identified as Norbert Neumann, Gruse Olaf and Heinze Kalla left for Frankfurt. Following a swoop by Indian sleuths it was revealed that the three agents were holding tourist visas but used to move about freely in the maximum security area of the Sahar International Airport here.

This they could do only because they secured airport security passes through Lufthansa from the International Airport Authority of India and the local security police.

It is shocking to note that the West German spy ring has been operating in the Bombay Lufthansa office since 1971, immediately after the Indo-Pak war. The modus operandi was that the

agents used to land in Bombay on tourist visas of three months in batches of three and would be lodged in five star hotels.

Two of them, Burhard Feine and his associate Hans were caught red-handed with sophisticated cameras at the airport soon after the Bangladesh war. They reportedly pleaded guilty following a thorough interrogation by the Indian intelligence of the charge of smuggling and were bundled out of country within 48 hours.

Another so-called tourist, operating in the garb of security officer, Josef Kunsorg, was nabbed by the customs authorities while exchanging parcels with a German passenger in the transit lounge of the Sahar airport. The customs followed him to the Lufthansa office at the airport and recovered a sophisticated tape recorder device.

He was charged the duty on the device and was let off after a stern warning.

The most shocking aspect of the West German operations is that these were conducted at the cost of Indian ex-

chequer. Since they used to land here and work on tourist visas, they were neither listed with CID or the RBI which is mandatory. Their salaries and hotel bills were paid in Indian rupees in utter violation of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act 1973. The damage on this count so far is estimated to be of the order of Rs 50 lakh alone in Bombay. Their salaries were paid in cash on petty cash vouchers.

Incidentally Lufthansa office is the venue in Bombay where earlier a sensational incidence had occurred wherein two Indian employees were dismissed for protesting against being abused as Indian 'pigs' 'animals' 'shit people living in a shit country' by one Mr Gunter Rapior, the then local station manager of Lufthansa. This man had been, according to reports, a defector from a military unit from German Democratic Republic and joined Lufthansa.

The Indian employees are still fighting their cases in the labour court following their victimisation. The question had figured in the last Lok Sabha session. It was the late Lalit Maken who had also written in this regard to the Prime Minister.

/9317

CSO: 4600/1270

7 February 1986

INDIA

INDO-EEC PANEL TO MEET EARLY IN 1986

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 Dec 85 p 2

[Text] EEC ambassador to India, Malpredo Macioti has said that Indo-EEC sub-commission on industrial co-operation would meet in Brussels early next year to draw up a new programme of industrial cooperation between the European Community (EC) and India in light of the "priorities" set out in the seventh five year Plan (1985-90), reports PTI.

Inaugurating a workshop on packaging and printing in Delhi Mr Machioti said existing cooperation between India and the EC covered trade, development aid, scientific and technological cooperation, energy and environment.

He said Indo-EEC trade had grown "significantly" over the years and between 1980 and 1984 the total trade turnover rose by over 83 percent from 4.1 billion European currency unit (ECU) to over 7.5 billion ECU.

Notwithstanding this spurt in two-way trade, Mr Macioto pointed out that India's share of the Community market is still lesss than one percent. Exports to India represented only 1.3 percent of the total Community exports in 1984.

India was "successful" in diversifying its export product mix as exports of generators and motors to EC between 1980 and 1984 have increased by nearly four times, travel goods have more than doubled, marine products have gone up by nearly 100 percent while scientific and control equipment exports have risen by 75 percent in the same time span, Mr Macioti added.

Though India is one of the main beneficiaries of the EEC's Generalised System of Preference (GSP), the utilisation of GSP by India has still room for "improvement. To help India making still better use of GSP, a Commission's team is visiting Madras, Calcutta and Bombay this week to hold seminars, Mr Macioti said.

The workshop was jointly organised by the Council of EEC Chamber of Commerce in India and the PHD Chamber of Commerce.

Mr Maciotti noted that the effectiveness of India-EC commercial cooperation is best reflected in increased transfer of technology, greater number of joint ventures and industrial collaborations. Of the 8600 industrial collaborative agreements since 1957 to 1984, 52 per cent are with units of the EC and of the total foreign investment in India between 1970 and 1984, 22 per cent is by the EC.

Pointing out that 12 of the EEC and six of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) combined provide the largest integrated market for industrial goods in the world, Mr Maciotti called upon the Indian businessmen to make effective use of market of "350 million fairly rich consumers".

Presenting a paper on packing

and printing technology in India in the seminar, an expert in the field, Mr Kamal Meattle said that suitable packaging and transportation systems need to be developed and standardised to make the Indian products globally competitive. Ideas and improved processing and "aseptic" packaging techniques need a "keen" look, he said.

Mr Meattle noted that for meat, special packaging and disease free hygienic products is a must when exports was contemplated.

Pointing out that export thrust cannot be envisaged without emphasis on proper and relevant packaging, Mr Meattle called for evolving a low-cost high compression tested corrugated board boxes to replace the over 30 million wooden boxes being used in the state of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir alone for packaging of a single product, apples.

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CSO: 4600/1270

INDIA

PRESS REPORTS DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIAN NAVY

Admiral on Navy Plans

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 3 Dec 85 p 4

[Text]

New Delhi, Dec. 2: The Indian Navy has decided to set up a third naval base at Karwar, about 96 km south of Goa, the vice-chief of the naval staff, Vice-Admiral K.K. Nayyar, told newsmen here today.

At a press conference to mark the Navy Week, he said naval expansion was essential to "commensurate with our galloping maritime interest" and outlined several schemes in this direction.

He said the Navy would soon go in for indigenous design and manufacture of both ships and submarines. "The real strength is what you produce yourselves," he said. Two indigenously designed ships, INS Ganga (a frigate of the Godavari class) and INS Tir, for training purposes, would be commissioned by the end of this year, he added.

A second frigate line was being set up at Calcutta's Garden Reach Shipyard. Frigates in the past were manufactured at the Mazagaon Docks only and it delivered one frigate every 18 months. A second production base had been decided upon to ensure that the Navy received two frigates in the same period and efforts were being made to increase the delivery to two per year, he added.

On the question of an aircraft carrier, he said while several

options were being examined, "we are progressing with our own design."

On the possibility of India buying the British carrier, Hermes, he said the Prime Minister already said in Parliament last week that a "detailed offer" was being awaited. He indicated that the deal was on the cards by saying, "Our preliminary staff requirements indicate that it (Hermes) will fit our needs quite well."

The Admiral, however, made it clear that Hermes was only for "interim" purposes and was "not a replacement for Vikrant." INS Vikrant, India's only aircraft carrier, would be decommissioned in the 1990s and its replacement would "hopefully be from indigenous sources," he said.

Not only was India increasing its production of frigates, but it was also going in for a completely new range of frigates, to be designed at the Mazagaon Docks. It would be a 5,000-tonne general purpose frigate with the latest technology including anti-missile weapons, he said.

On the proposed naval base at Karwar, he said the two existing major bases at Vishakapatnam and Bombay were "feeling the strain because of congestion." The Karwar base was ideally located and had a deep water frontage.

7 February 1986

East Coast Buildup

Calcutta THE GELEGRAPH in English 4 Dec 85 p 4

[Text]

Vishakapatnam, Dec. 3: One need not be too discerning to imagine where the priority of the Indian Navy lies—on the west coast. Even after a splendid job it did in effectively blockading the sea route to East Pakistan in the 1971 war, the Eastern Naval Command has always been the less glamorous arm of the service.

But with the formation of the 200-mile exclusive economic zone and the lately-realised significance of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Eastern Naval Command is coming into its own. A second dry dock in Vishakapatnam, in addition to the largest one in southeast Asia already existing is just one indication of the importance being attached to developing the Eastern Naval Command.

The Eastern Fleet consists of submarines, anti-submarine vessels, landing ships, seaward defence boats and harbour defence boats. But if the array of vessels look limited in relation to the formidable forces of the Western Fleet, the Eastern Naval Command boasts of a massive and well-developed dry dock and a large number of workshops equipped with sophisticated machinery, all capable of repairing and servicing the entire Indian Navy.

In fact, when a group of visiting newsmen were taken around the dry dock, two submarines out of the eight in the submarine squadron were in the dry dock, stripped to the bone for repairs. Although the submarines are Soviet-made, not more than four Soviet personnel are requisitioned for the repair work a far cry from the 80 or so who used to

descend on the dockyard for submarine repairs only a few years back.

The Eastern Naval Command is headed by a flag-officer Commanding-in-Chief

The *INS Virbahu*, the submarine arm of the Eastern Naval Command is the prima donna of the Indian Navy in the Bay

The Eastern Fleet comprises two main types of ships—the anti-submarine ships and the landing ships for tanks and troops. The anti-submarine ships are relatively small and compact, but capable of high speeds and are designed to play both anti-submarine and anti-aircraft roles. The landing ships can be run aground on beaches to land tanks and troops. *INS Cheeta*, the latest landing ship of the Eastern Fleet, acquired only last year from Poland, can house five tanks and 120 troops in its hold.

Submarine Under Construction

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 Dec 85 p 7

[Article by Sumit Chakrabarty]

[Text]

VISAKHAPATNAM,

December 4.

THE naval dockyard here has developed rapidly from a base for first-line maintenance to the biggest ship repair facility in South-East Asia. Today it has the capability not only to repair but also to build modern warships and submarines.

Currently a second dry dock is under construction here, Vice-Admiral, J. G. Nadkarni, Flag Officer commanding-in-chief of the Eastern Naval Command, said the new dock would be fitted with ultra-modern facilities to take care of future requirements.

The new West German submarine arriving in a few months is to be added to the fleet of eight Russian-made submarines, spells a fresh emphasis on this offensive arm of the navy.

LIFE SPAN

The first Indian submarine is being built at the Mazagaon docks in Bombay under West German collaboration. Four submarines of West German design are to be acquired in the near future. Two of these will be made in India representing a major step in the acquisition of technology.

The navy has overcome a big hurdle in becoming self-reliant in shore-testing, maintenance and repair facilities for submarines. Earlier, they had to be sent to Russia for overhauling and replacement of parts.

To survive in the deep, every piece of equipment on board a submarine must function at peak efficiency. That is why a submarine, which has a life of 27 years, needs a complete refitting at least twice during this

period. The cramped space in a submarine makes extensive maintenance and testing impossible until it is put in a dry dock.

The naval dockyard at Visakhapatnam has acquired the capability for this specialised task. Two submarines have already been refitted here and two more are now in the dock.

The submarine arm of the navy has grown considerably since the acquisition of the first submarine in 1968. All aspects of submarining are now encompassed at the base organisation, I.N.S. Virbahu, at Visakhapatnam, which was commissioned in 1971.

Rear Admiral, J. N. Sukul, Admiral Superintendent of the dockyard, explained that every part has to be examined with care as submarines are subjected to so much pressure. Sections of the hull weakened by corrosion need to be replaced with fresh material welded on to the body.

X-ray techniques ensure that there are no defects in welding.

The submarines now in the dock are expected to remain for three years. The first submarine took about five years to repair.

The dockyard is self-sufficient for repairing and maintaining the entire Eastern fleet as well as ships from the west coast. A large number of workshops with sophisticated machinery are in use. These include heavy machine shops, engine test houses, laboratories, and an emergency power station. There is a slipway for underwater repairs. Steam, oil LP and HP air, oxygen acetylene and cooling water are provided by a network of pipe systems all over the dockyard.

The Meghadrigedda river bed was reclaimed to set up the dockyard complex. The soil was marshy with soft marine clay running 20 metres deep. The huge structures are now supported on heavy piles driven to the hard rock at an average depth of 30 metres.

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CSO: 4600/1265

INDIA

DAUPHIN HELICOPTERS TO BE BOUGHT FROM FRANCE

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 10 Dec 85 p 4

[Article by Jagmeet Uppal]

[Text]

New Delhi, Dec. 9: The Union ministry of civil aviation issued a letter of intent to the French firm, Aerospace, last week for the purchase of 27 Dauphin helicopters, according to reliable sources.

The government's decision to purchase the Dauphins was finalised during the visit here of the French minister for industrial redeployment and external trade, Mrs Edith Cresson. Aerospace had offered six Dauphins free in the package deal for 27 helicopters.

According to a civil aviation ministry plan, 21 of the Dauphins will be given to the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) for use in the oil sector, while the remaining six will be used by VVIPs. The six free Dauphins will be included in the fleet of the newly-formed Helicopter Corporation of India.

The Bill for the formation of the corporation was passed during the last session of Parliament. It is expected to begin operation by early next year. The corporation will initially ca-

ter only to the oil sector but will later be expanded to provide tourist and inter-city transport services.

In the first phase, the corporation will buy 42 helicopters. From June, helicopter services will be launched in the oil sector and by October, the necessary fleet of helicopters will be made available to the ONGC.

Sources said an expert committee had already submitted to the civil aviation ministry a study on the feasibility of helicopter commuter services. The study has said that helicopters can be used by the private firms and industrialists and even hired in a city like Bombay to fly from one place to another. The recommendations are under consideration.

The sources said that though the corporation would initially have only Dauphins in its fleet, it would later establish a mixed fleet as the government would buy other helicopters too.

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CSO: 4600/1272

INDIA

BRIEFS

ROCKET FUEL INGREDIENT--Minister of State for Science and Technology Shivraj Patil has confirmed in the Rajya Sabha that a vital chemical for rocket fuel had been produced in the country for the first time, reports PTI. He said in a written reply to Mr H.S. Hanspal that the most important chemicals for rocket fuels are produced in the country. These have been primarily developed by the department of Space and the technology has now been passed on to Indian industries for large-scale production, and to meet the continuing requirement of the department. Mr Patil said these include high energy polybutadyne, fuel polymers for solid propellants and Unsymmetrical Di Methyl Hydrazine (UDMH) for liquid propellants. The high energy solid Propellant Hydroxy Terminated Polybutadyne (HTPB), he said, has been developed on laboratory scale at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Trivandrum. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Dec 85 p 7] /9317

SOVIET MICA ORDER--The Soviet state enterprise responsible for purchase of mica has placed an order for about 4250 metric tonnes valued at Rs 9 crore to be supplied during January to August 1986. A contract to this effect was signed on Wednesday in Delhi by Mr Kourshunov, leader of the Soviet delegation and by Dr B.B.L. Madhukar, chairman and managing director of Mica Trading Corporation of India, a subsidiary of MMTC. Mr A.G. Bouravtson from the Soviet organisation assisted the leader of the delegation. An indication was given that a supplementary contract for around Rs 4 crore is likely to be finalised by August 1986 for supply during the remaining months of the year. MITCO has supplied mica to about 30 countries during 1984-85 with Soviet Union on the top of the list according for about 60 percent of its total export. The items negotiated in the new contract include mica blocks, condenser films, mica scrap and mica powder. A significant feature of this contract is that over 80 percent of the order constitutes labour intensive items and provides relief to weaker sections of the industry. MITCO exported Rs 27.40 crore worth of mica and mica products during 1984-85 and is likely to export about Rs 29 crore worth of mica and allied items during 1985-86. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 Dec 85 p 2] /9317

INDO-BAHRAIN CULTURAL PACT--Bahrain, Dec 8--India and Bahrain today signed a two-year wide ranging cultural exchange and cooperation agreement in the fields of art, music, education, archaeology, sports media, films and tourism, reports PTI. The agreement was signed by Dr Ali Fakhroo, Bahrain's

Education Minister and the Indian Ambassador to Bahrain, Mr Shrad Kumar Bhatnagar, at a brief ceremony here. Under the agreement, India will offer three scholarships for post-graduate studies in Indian universities for Bahrain coaches at its Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports at Patiala. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 9 Dec 85 p 1] /9317

ECONOMIC PANEL RECONSTITUTED--New Delhi, Dec 4--The Government of India has reconstituted the Economic Advisory Council with Prof Sukhmoy Chakraborty as chairman. The other members of the council are Dr K.N. Raj, Dr C. Rangarajan, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank and Prof Neelakantha Rath, Director, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune, Dr Vijay L. Kelkar, adviser, Minister of Petroleum, will be the council's secretary. The council was originally set up in 1983 for a two year period to advise the Government on specific issues relating to economic policy and development referred to it by the Prime Minister and on other issues that members may themselves bring up for Government's consideration. The reconstituted council will again have a two year term, according to a notification issued by the Cabinet Secretariat. The council will be serviced by the Planning Commission and will submit its reports to the Prime Minister.--PTI [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 5 Dec 85 p 7] /9317

PRC ENGINEERS DELEGATION--Madras, Dec 4--There are indications that China will soon place orders on India for high pressure boilers for two 250 MW coal-fired utility stations in that country, to begin with. A Chinese engineers delegation led by Mr Yu Zhi An, Plant Director, Wuhan Steam Turbine and Generator Plant recently visited by the high pressure boiler plant of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Tiruchi, BHEL sources said the delegation was greatly impressed with the production facilities and the sophistication of the Tiruchi plant. A memorandum of understanding signed subsequently by the Chinese, states that they are interested in buying boilers from India. They are reported to be thinking of a barter deal. This will be the first time China will buy heavy power equipment from India. The matching turbine and alternator will be manufactured in China itself. [Excerpt] [Madras THE HINDU in English 5 Dec 85 p 12] /9317

PRC ENERGY DELEGATION--New Delhi, Dec 6--India and China have agreed to exchange "technology, experience and experts" in the field of conservation of energy. An agreement to this effect was signed between the China Energy Research Foundation and the Punjab-Haryana-Delhi Chamber of Commerce her today. The China Energy Research Society (Cers) is a non-governmental academic society of the Chinese Association of Science and Technology, mainly supported by the state Science and Technology Commission of the People's Republic of China. Its aim is to unite various sectors of energy specialists, to initiate research work in energy policy and technology and to promote the development of energy undertakings. The leader of the visiting five-member Chinese delegation, Prof Lu Yingzhong, said China had adopted a system of "reward and punishment" for encouraging energy conservation at different levels. This system has a provision that in case the workers achieve target production level within norms, they are rewarded by calculating a certain percentage of the energy saving achieved. However,

at the same time, if these norms are not adhered to, the workers have to forgo a certain percentage of their bonus. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 7 Dec 85 p 6] /9317

HIMALAYAN OIL EXPLORATION--Dehradun, Dec 1 (PTI)--The Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) will soon undertake super-deep-drilling (SDD) for the first time in the Himalayan foothills. The wells will be drilled at Jawalmukhi and Noorpur in Himachal Pradesh in February next year and in the Jammu region next October. These wells will be drilled up to 7,000 metres compared to the maximum of 5,500 metres drilled so far. A spokesman of the commission said modern and mud logging units, data monitoring and processing equipment would be used for drilling the wells. He said studies had revealed existence of about 589 million tonnes of hydrocarbons (oil) and gas reserves in the sedimentary basins of the Himalayan foothills. The newly set up Institute of Drilling Technology would provide technology support to drill to the target depths, he added. Hand-held computers will be used by most drillers. At the project and regional headquarters, too, computers would be installed to retrieve and analyse data to assist drilling engineers. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 2 Dec 85 p 6] /9317

ANTARCTIC RESEARCH EXPANDED--Mormugao, December 2--The fifth Indian Antarctic expedition comprising 87 members, including two women, left by the 'Thule Land' from Mormugao port of November 30, is expected to reach Antarctica on December 20 and return in March 1986. More than half the payload of the 'Thule Land' is petroleum products, supplied mainly by the Indian Oil Corporation. The scientific team is the continuation of our ongoing programme. Fuller involvement in Antarctic research would necessitate the setting up of a few more stations elsewhere in the continent, according to Mr M. Kaul, leader of the team. For India the biggest gain from the Antarctic expedition is that the country is now a member of a select band of countries committed to Antarctic research for the common welfare of mankind, Mr Kaul said. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 3 Dec 85 p 14] /9317

CIVIL AVIATION PANEL--An expert committee headed by Mr J.R.D. Tata has been constituted to prepare a blueprint for aircraft requirements and the supporting navigational equipment for the next quarter century, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jagdish Tytler informed the Rajya Sabha on Monday, reports UNI. Replying to the brief debate on the International Airports Authority (amendment) Bill 1985, he assured the members that the Government would leave no stone unturned to ensure that the country's aviation keeps pace with the fast changing technology. The House passed the legislation seeking to amend the International Airports Authority Act 1971, after the Minister's reply. Referring to the delay in the completion of the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Mr Tytler made it clear that he would not "compromise" on the action to be taken against any officer, however highly placed he may be, for misusing Government funds. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 Dec 85 p 1] /9317

CSO: 4600/1271

PAKISTAN

ARTICLE SURVEYS COUNTRY'S SITUATION IN 1985

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 2 Jan 86 pp 9-10, 33

[Article by M.B. Naqvi]

[Text] Martial Law (ML) completed eight years and entered into the ninth during the year. The calendar year dawned during a lurid glow emanating from the December 19, 1984 Referendum on ML regime's Islamisation programme and an approval thereof meant confirming Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq as President for five years from the date he later specified: March 23, 1985.

The first major political action of the ML regime was the February 25 and 28 elections to National and Provincial Assemblies avowedly on a non-party basis. Care was taken to ensure that the voters did not know the precise political programmes of the candidates they were being asked to choose and both the candidates and voters were wholly unaware of what the Assemblies could or could not do. The constitutional position was left vague, it must be said, by design.

'Fait accompli'

The next major step was the promulgation of the Restoration of the Constitution Order (RCO). Its timing was significant: it came after the elections but before the Assemblies could meet; the latter were presented with a fait accompli. All manner of commentators have analysed the RCO and its purposes.

Having thus set the stage, the National Assembly was convened on the Pakistan Day, March 23, 1985, and was presented with a Government nominated by the CMLA-President. The new Prime Minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, made a brave maiden speech that day, saying that a civilian and democratic government could not for long run along side with the ML. Nevertheless, the Junejo Government has slept in the same bed with the ML for nine long months.

On the last but one day of the year 1985 came the withdrawal of the July 5, 1977 proclamation; what the formality means is a matter carried over into the new year.

Meanwhile there is the question about what has the new, ostensibly democratic, government, albeit presided over by a non-political Premier (whatever that signifies) and/or the CMLA-President, been doing during the nine months that it has been in office? To begin with, it has managed to survive, fix a date for the lifting of ML and control the non-political Assembly, albeit with the help of quasi-parties called Official Parliamentary Group (OPG) and Independent Parliamentary Group (IPG). More than surviving, the Junejo regime has other and more 'positive' achievements to its credit.

Permanent role

It is credited with helping to scotch the long-mooted proposal of the National Security Council (NSC)--that was part of the August 12, 1983 plan of Gen Ziaul Haq and which has largely been the bedrock of all the constitutional developments during 1984-85. (The NSC, representing the permanent role of the military in the political life of the country may be dead but by virtue of the enabling constitutional provisions in the RCO and the Eighth Amendment Bill, the President's ability to remain Pakistan Army's Chief of Staff indefinitely gives the armed forces a constitutional role permanent enough).

There are two other political 'achievements' to be credited to the account of Mr Junejo's Civil and Military Government: First, it was able to make the National Assembly and Senate pass the Constitution (Eighth Amendment) Bill after a great deal of diverting drama. Secondly, it made the Majlis-i-Shoora pass an amending Bill for controlling the political processes when and if political parties are revived and allowed to function (when and if ML is truly withdrawn).

On both occasions the so-called Upper House, the Senate, has tried to enact mini-dramas but the result was never in doubt; it dutifully approved what the National Assembly had passed. The Political Parties amending Bill has empowered the Government to make detailed rules for the guidance of the Election Commission that in turn, will be the formal controlling authority for political parties. Whether life is made stringent and difficult for the registered parties or it is made easy depends on the Government. The current estimates of what this Government will actually do appear to incline towards making life harder for political parties--even for those that submit to the requirement of being registered again.

Foreign policy debate

Another 'achievement' of the MNAs and Senators was to keep the promise of a closed-door briefing by the Foreign Minister on foreign affairs and a foreign policy debate for the benefit of the media and those in the nation who wish to know what transpires in the NA.

For the rest, this NA has ensured a great deal of privileges for its members. They can distribute arms licences to the favoured ones among their constituents. Their ability to recommend telephone connections has been all but institutionalised. Similarly, they can help some of their constituents

obtain interest-free loans--although a sort of budgetary limit has been set for each member's quota of funds. Then, on top of it, there is the policy decision that each MNA can recommend development schemes within his constituency the implementation of which is to be supervised largely by the MNA; the budgetary provision for each has been fixed at Rs 5,000,000. These are the known, or rather the announced, privileges. There are said to be others but nothing definite is known about them.

Insofar as the actual administration of the country is concerned, 1985 was no different from any of the previous years under the present ML dispensation. ML administration has remained superimposed over the normal State apparatus with overriding authority and powers, being exercised through both civil and military law-enforcing agencies and ML and civil courts. The term law-of-the-land now includes all the many MLRs, MLOs, Presidential Orders and proclamations as overriding all others. A good many of them will remain so in 1986 in various senses over which the experts do not agree.

Political activity has remained totally banned. The people, as in all previous eight years, have enjoyed no (enforceable) fundamental rights. The higher courts have had no jurisdiction to hear any case arising from ML or ML courts, nor could they entertain writs for giving relief to the aggrieved. The ML courts have been awarding their usual or wonted punishments merrily. The student unions stayed banned. The crippling restrictions on trade unions remained in force. Universities continued to be in strait-jackets. Newspapers, well, the readers know all about their state.

Islamisation

The ML regime's Islamisation programme has not registered any further expansion during the year and the CMLA has had occasion during the year to pull up Mr Junejo's C & M Government and the MNAs and Senators for not talking enough about Islam and Islamisation. They duly responded by including the adjective Islamic to whatever they were talking about at a higher decibel. Now, the Ninth Constitutional Amendment Bill will complete the process; the art and craft of using the maximum of Islamic wordage with a minimum of effect has been taken a stage further.

One particular development during the year in this regard was the completion of the banking reforms: Banks no longer accept deposits for interest or give loans on interest; all their operations are now said to be fully Islamic, i.e., on the basis of sharing profit and loss. A wee bit of a setback to the Islamisation processes may be noted: The Qazi courts that were to be established throughout the length and breadth of the country by an earlier date remain on the horizon. Also, one heard of fewer harsh penalties being actually awarded and executed under the Hadood Ordinance. For the rest, the Shariat courts and the Federal Shariat Court remained occupied, dispensing Islamic justice. But, be it noted, not even the Federal Shariat Court can entertain any application for redressing a grievance arising out of any ML court or ML action. The Government throughout the last eight years and more has been ever ready to go in appeal to the Supreme Court of Pakistan against the decisions of the Federal Shariat Court (earlier SC Shariat Bench).

Two particular incidents during the course of 1985 stand out. The first was the unholy sight of a confrontation between the two provincial administrations of the Punjab and Sind over canal waters; the equally-nominated MCs supported by respective non-political Assemblies, vowed to defend their particular province's share steadfastly, come what may. The Central Government chose to remain helplessly impotent for some time, with the ML finally suppressing the controversy. A similar confrontation has arisen between the Punjab and NWFP over the proposed Kalabagh Dam. The noises were still being made till the end of the year and the ML seemed to be either unsuccessful or busy elsewhere.

There have been a few similar other controversies like shifting of the headquarters of banks and financial institutions, electricity rages, gas and electricity load-shedding that are whipping up provincial feelings. With the political life in abeyance, fissiparous tendencies are finding free play and ML was wholly powerless to arrest them--that is, if it was really interested in doing so.

Politican fronts

Another circumstance of the same kind was the formation of the Sind, Baluchistan and Frontier Front in London. It has given a call for a confederation, scandalising many and putting tremendous strain on MRD and other opposition parties. It is also to be noted that the MRD seems to be in an advanced state of decline; disintegration appears to be staring it in the face. Most other parties are also in difficulties; splitting tendencies seem to have gripped the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), the National Democratic Party (NDP), the Jamiatul Ulema-i-Islam (JUI) and Tehrik Istiqlal (TI); factionalism is rife in most others.

While true political activity remains, for the traditional parties, impossible, a certain amount of politicking among top leadership of all parties, with the help of the Press, has been permitted. That, given the circumstance of preventing living contact of leaders with the people, results in the politics in a vacuum that exacerbates personal differences, jealousies and suspicions. Inspired news items in newspapers about secret contacts with the Government of unnamed leaders heighten suspicions among parties and factions--a beautiful exercise of divide and rule.

National integration appears to be at its lowest ebb. A strange context is provided by the rapid deterioration in the law and order situation. The contraband arms and narcotics trade appear to be, by all accounts, flourishing. The price of the much-coveted klashinkov rifle has come down to Rs 17,000 or less as far south as Karachi. How many of these deadly weapons are around in the country is anyone's guess; the figure for Sind alone that is being bandied about in Karachi drawing rooms is over 50,000. It is presumed that the NWFP is bulging with much more than 300,000 of them and the Punjab is not quite uninterested. The recent eight-hour shootout in Karachi between the police and outlaws was symptomatic; the Hathora group killings are yet another reminder of the deteriorating law and order situation.

Economy

Last May the budget broke very little of new ground, except to introduce the principle of indexing public sector wages to the cost of living. It was remarkable for continuing the policy of favouring private business initiative and promised more incentives for private investments. Deregulation was to be the watchword. There was the promise not to resort to deficit financing or increase taxes. The growing deficit was sought to be met through internal borrowing of what had been hitherto untaxed black money. It is still too early to judge the success of the new venture or all its consequences. Very little of cash--some Rs 285 crore--is all the Government got while internal debt liabilities increased by much more, though the Government did execute a cunning manoeuvre. But as the State Bank report pointed out recently, the balance of payments deficit in 1985 reached \$1.6 billion and the dependence on external resources touched 32 percent and the outlook for the future seems even more clouded.

Foreign relations of the country remain embroiled in the crises they have been for some years. Afghanistan is the biggest one. As the sixth round of Geneva proximity talks have demonstrated, Pakistan is up against the final moment of decision: either it continues to support the Mujahideens' and their supporters' war by all means it has been doing and living with its consequences, or accedes to the wishes of the Karmal Government and their friends in the Kremlin about the negotiated settlement on the basis acceptable to them--as a result of which the Soviet troops will go back. Pakistan does not seem to have made up its mind and continues the search for gaining more time--raising, it is feared, the ante even further.

Relations with India, despite five meetings of Gen Zia with Premier Rajiv Gandhi during the year, are still where they had been. The same four major grounds of disagreement continue to feed suspicions. The resumed security relationship between the US and Pakistan--it is now being extended beyond 1987 with a requested doubling of aid package--appears to be the main basis of Indian fears. Pakistan's nuclear programme is the second major cause for complaint from not only India but many others. There has been no progress during the year on any of these two major points of controversy. Siachin Glacier too, remains festering the Indo-Pakistan relationship. The Indians also keep on repeating their charges about Pakistanis' help and assistance to Sikh terrorists in the Punjab. Indeed, a brand new point of friction may have emerged in the recent weeks: it is the warming up of Pakistan's relations with Sri Lanka and their mutual cooperation. Indians dislike it and accuse Pakistan of siding with the Jayawerdene Government in its civil war against Tamil separatists. While the outlook remains clouded, it is pleasing to note that the dialogue got a fillip from the Dec 17 meeting between Gen Zia and Premier Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi.

There are two more developments to note, one pleasing and the other a cause for possible worry: The December 7 and 8 Dhaka summit that gave birth to SAARC; it is a hopeful experiment and many would wish it well. The second development is the ongoing negotiations between Washington and Islamabad for continuing the present security and aid relationship for the period 1987 to 1993. No one knows the details; one only heard the nearly-ecstatic remark from the Finance Minister that this is all but wrapped up and we should expect \$6.5 billion for those six years. The worrying question is: Dollars are all very well, but what do we give in exchange? There could be a quid pro quo that self-respecting Pakistani nationalists cannot pay. Would anyone assure us that we will not have to concede something that will prove to be more expensive than \$6.5 billion?

/9317

CSO: 4600/177

PAKISTAN

EXPERTS EXPRESS VIEWS ON ISSUE OF EMERGENCY

Karachi DAWN in English 9 Jan 86 p 2

[Text] Constitutional experts here are of the view that the Government's claim that state of emergency was lifted on Dec 30 after 20 years, was not based on facts. The factual position is that there was no emergency when the lifting of Martial Law was announced on Dec. 30 last.

These circles maintain that emergency was revoked through a Proclamation by President Fazal Elahi Chaudhry on Sep. 15, 1977. The Proclamation also repealed the Defence of Pakistan Ordinance of 1971.

Tracing the history of emergency in the country, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan said, Ayub Khan proclaimed a state of emergency at the time of the Indo-Pakistan War in Sept. 1965. When a democratic movement against Ayub's regime was launched in 1969, the Democratic Action Committee (DAC) got the emergency lifted before going for a round-table conference.

The next emergency was proclaimed by Yahya Khan on Nov. 23, 1971, when the situation in the then East Pakistan deteriorated and another war with India broke out. The state of emergency was latter "varied" by the Bhutto regime which on April 21, 1977, through a Proclamation, withdrew the rights of the superior courts to hear any case challenging the calling in of the Armed Forces in aid of the civil powers. The "variance" orders were issued at the time when Martial Law was imposed in Karachi, Hyderabad and Lahore following PNA agitation.

The emergency was protected through Article 280 of the 1973 Constitution and the right to invoke the jurisdiction of the superior courts for enforcement of fundamental rights under Articles 9, 10, 14(1), 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24 and 25 was suspended.

After imposition of Martial Law in the country on July 5, 1977, the Government announced general elections, scheduled for Oct 18 (which were subsequently post-poned), and, with a view to allowing free political activity, revoked emergency on Sept. 15, 1977.

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CSO: 4600/178

PAKISTAN

LEGISLATORS SAID WILLING TO BACK MID-TERM ELECTIONS

Karachi DAWN in English 7 Jan 86 p 8

[Text] Should a national consensus develop on the advisability of holding mid-term poll to restructure the political process on a party basis, the elected representatives will not be found wanting in honouring the wishes of the electorate.

This, in sum, was the proposition advanced by four parliamentarians--two Senators and two MNAs--before a select audience representing a cross-section of people, while exchanging views on various aspects of politics at a local hotel on Monday.

Senators Javed Jabbar and Tariq Chandhri as well as begum Abida Husain and Javed Hashmi, MNAs, however, made it clear that the elected representatives did not at all feel apologetic about the role played by them in Parliament with the sole purpose of getting rid of Martial Law.

Begum Abida regretted that with the lifting of Martial Law the political parties were not made a part of the representative institutions and that transfer of power was just partial.

Nevertheless, she pinpointed the need for preparing the nation for its entry into the 21st century with assured confidence in its destiny, even though there was a "long, dark tunnel" to go through.

Mr Jabbar touched on, what he termed, a frightful prospect that none of the political parties was "in no way near being able to assume power." He also talked of general apathy among people towards the poll.

Mr Hashmi said the elected representatives had a sense of achievement in having the fundamental rights restored after a long gap of 21 years. What cooperation had achieved in a matter of months, the policy of confrontation, pursued for more than 30 years, had failed to secure, he asserted.

Mr Hashmi said the political parties had made an "incorrect assessment" of the situation and, therefore, missed the bus. He, however, held out an assurance that they (political parties) would be brought back to the mainstream. "If necessary, we (the elected representatives) would vacate places for them," he said.

Claiming that he was speaking as a representative of Punjab, Mr Hashmi criticised the appointment of a non-Sindhi as the Governor of Sind. He said he would have equally opposed the appointment of a Sindhi as the Governor of Punjab.

Mr Chaudhri said the first and foremost task was to remove the sense of insecurity from the minds of people. The next, in order of importance, was how to learn to live within the resources available in the country.

During a question-answer session, Mr Jabbar disclosed that the Prime Minister had given an assurance that a committee would be set up to review hardship cases under Martial Law.

A questioner pointed to a glaring contradiction in the amended Constitution in that Section 149, regarding matters related to the Press, had been validated. Besides, the Press under the Press and Publications Ordinance, continued to be muzzled with 30 to 35 per cent cut in advertisements for national dailies.

Mr Jabbar hoped that obvious constitutional incongruities would be done away with. He, however, pointed out that it was "irrational and unfair" to expect the "impossible" from the elected representatives. One should not forget that the parliamentarians had been led into a "unique position" of a non-party Parliament, he said.

Begum Abida, Mr Hashmi and Mr Chaudhri also spoke at a reception given for them by the All-Pakistan Youth League on Sunday.

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CSO: 4600/178

PAKISTAN

JATOI OUTLINES PPP PRIORITIES

Karachi DAWN in English 9 Jan 86 p 2

[Text] Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has said that the Pakistan People's Party will press its point of view on various issues including the registration of political parties with the Election Commission, converting the MRD into an election alliance and making it a permanent organisation, in the forthcoming meeting of the MRD Central Action Committee at Lahore.

Talking to newsmen here on Wednesday, the PPP leader, said that the PPP held its colleagues in the MRD in the highest esteem, but the "vital" issues were first to be decided by PPP. The Central Executive Committee of the PPP, he said had considered the issues at its recent meeting at Peshawar and its views would be announced at an appropriate date.

Mr Jatoi said he appreciated the general public's desire that the MRD must come out with a clearcut stand on the future government in place of the present set-up and also announce a shadow cabinet.

About the possibility of a dialogue between the MRD and the Junejo government, Mr Jatoi said that it was up to the Government to announce the issues on which it intended to negotiate with the MRD.

He said that the MRD's stand on the present set-up was clear. It could not recognise the present assemblies, the Eighth Amendment, the referendum and "the man holding the office of the President".

Under these conditions the MRD was not prepared to talk to "an illegal" and "unconstitutional" government, he added.

Mr Jatoi said that the MRD had not failed to achieve its objectives. Despite "65,000 lashes on the backs of the people, arrests and convictions as well as execution of political workers, the MRD is not only intact but has emerged stronger than ever".

Mr Jatoi said that the MRD would continue to struggle for the restoration of the 1973 Constitution and an undiluted democracy which alone could save the country.

Earlier, talking to a delegation of PPP leaders and workers, Mr Jatoi accused the Government of plotting a division in the PPP ranks and hoped that the party workers would frustrate all such designs. He said that the intra-party squabbles were not a good omen.

He said that Begum Bhutto greatly valued the sacrifices made by the PPP leaders and workers during the past eight and a half years and wanted to give them their due status in the party. He said he too favoured that important party offices be given to the workers who had suffered for the cause of democracy.

Mr Jatoi also assured the workers that all those whose membership was suspended by the Punjab branch on disciplinary grounds might consider themselves reinstated and their party post secured.

According to him, the party was facing a similar situation to the one at the time it was set up by late Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto in 1967.

The delegation included Malik Mukhtar Awan, Mr Ghulam Arabi Khar, Mian Sajid Pervaiz, Syed Nazim Husain Shah, Mr Iqbal Cheema, Malik Hakmeen Khan and Begum Rehana Sarwar.

Meanwhile, on a written complaint, circulated by a party delegation among the members of the Central Executive Committee during its meeting at Peshawar, Mr Jatoi is reported to have said that Mr Ghulam Mustafa Khar was "an important and respected" leader of the PPP and workers could not be punished because they were Mr Khar's sympathisers.

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CSO: 4600/178

PAKISTAN

TI LEADER CRITICIZES PARTY CHIEF'S POLICIES

Karachi DAWN in English 8 Jan 86 p 4

[Text] Malik Hamid Sarfraz, Senior Vice-President of the outlawed Tehrik-i-Istiqal, has charged the leadership of tampering with the party constitution "to make the party President an authoritarian boss over the workers committed to democracy and struggling for the liberty of the people".

Talking to Dawn, the Tehrik leader expressed the view that the changes in the interim constitution which was approved by the National Working Committee on Feb. 3, 1978, and yet to be retified by the National Council, were made to deviate the Tehrik-i-Istiqal from the path of democratic struggle and make it a party of "certain loyalists" who were prepared to let the "despotic" traditions go unchallenged by those who had suffered for the cause of democracy.

According to Malik Hamid Sarfraz a copy of the "up-to-date" party constitution has been sent to him by Air Marshal (ret'd) Asghar Khan which showed "drastic" changes in the draft constitution.

He also challenged the nomination of 12 more members on the National Working Committee on the plea that the party president could, at the most, nominate six more members to complete the 43-member committee.

The Tehrik leader alleged that the party President seemed convinced that he himself was the party. He said that this was being done at the expense of those who gave their blood for the party and the national cause.

According to him it was the "misdoing" of the handful of loyalists who were destroying the democratic spirit of the party. "But we are not going to allow them to make it a bureaucratic party", he maintained.

Malik Hamid Sarfraz deplored the delay in convening a meeting of the National Council which according to the party constitution, was supposed to be held every year.

According to him a number of issues, were to be discussed by the Council in addition to the party constitution's approval.

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CSO: 4600/178

PAKISTAN

COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA BLAMED FOR PROBLEMS IN SIND

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 1 Dec 85 p 3

/Article by Mohammad Musa Bhutto: "The Real Problem in Sind"/

/Excerpt/ Maulana Mohammad Shah Amroti has stated that the government is trying to incite internecine Muslim fighting by encouraging talk about Sindhu Desh. He added that G. M. Sayyed wants to give Sindhis to Hindus.

Only the government can tell us about Maulana's accusation against it. However, we would like to tell Maulana that the main problem of Sind is neither Sindhu Desh nor G. M. Sayyed. G. M. Sayyed has finished his life's work. At this time his greatest desire is to stop those young men he trained to be antinational and antireligion from joining the communist movement.

The reason for this change is not Mr Sayyed's conflict with communist ideology. However, Mr Sayyed is doomed to fail in his efforts. His health is very poor. Additionally, he is well schooled in the ideology, but is a poor organizer. He started the slogan of nationalism. However, his own people are not ready to listen to his rhetoric against communism.

Maulana Mohammad Shah Amroti is the son and heir to Sind's great freedom fighter Maulana Taj Mohammad Amroti. He is well respected in religious groups in Sind. He has many qualities and skills. If he understands the present danger to Sind, he can save the province and its Islamic interests. In my opinion the greatest problem in Sind is the college and university graduates from the last 15 or 20 years. These young men are ill educated in Islamic ideology. They are almost illiterate about Islam. They were already intimidated by their environment when they arrived in colleges and universities. The teachers, because of their prejudice against Sindhis, made these students even more bitter. The third factor was G. M. Sayyed's literature which weakened their faith in religion. Another element in Sind was communists. The communists could not succeed in this social environment, but they continued their efforts. They have been more active for the last 5 to 7 years, after the Russian aggression in Afghanistan. In the beginning, the communists helped themselves from the concept of nationalism. They focused on local as well as ideological issues. When they were recognized as Sindhi nationalists, they moved toward pure communist ideology. At present they are trying to recruit farmers and educate young meh into a pure communist movement.

Their activities have significantly increased in rural areas, especially in Badin and Thatha Districts. It will not be wrong to say that it is the major party in these two districts when considering the number of workers and their activities. They are also high achievers in the area of literature. They publish a book almost daily. More than half of these books focus on Marxism, capitalism and atheism. In these books everything, including religion, history, the prophets and literature, are viewed from the communist point of view. All of these are portrayed as the creation of capitalists.

Sindhi is a regional language, and the publication of literature on communism on such a wide scale in a regional language does not happen without extensive planning.

Our observations indicate that there is an increase in the influence of communism among the educated people. This is a very serious development from religious, traditional and nationalist points of view. Publication of such literature in a regional language causes concern. The progress of national language is dependent on the progress of regional languages. However, distribution of negative literature about religion, tradition and God cannot be permitted in the name of service to the literature of regional languages.

Of course, Pakistan should allow freedom of expression. It is a democratic country and publication of procommunist literature should be viewed as a demand of free people. People presenting this point forget about Pakistan's own ideology. Why is such a freedom of expression not allowed in the USSR?

7997/12228

CSO: 4656/32

PAKISTAN

PUNJAB SAID TO HAVE 76 POLITICAL PRISONERS

Karachi DAWN in English 7 Jan 86 p 2

[Text] Mr Liaquat Husain Warraich, Secretary-General of the Political Prisoners Release Committee has said that the number of political prisoners in various jails of Punjab is 76. They have been convicted for various terms in different cases.

Prison terms in some cases have been reduced and if various remissions granted by the Government from time to time since they were convicted were also taken into account, they should have been released by now, he added.

Mr Warraich said that with the withdrawal of Martial Law and the restoration of fundamental rights, there was no justification for keeping them in prison any longer.

He demanded that all political workers, irrespective of their imprisonment terms, be released without delay.

/12828

CSO: 4600/178

PAKISTAN

STUDENT ASSOCIATION'S ALLEGED 'EXTREMIST' ACTIONS PROTESTED

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 2 Jan 86 pp 16-17

[Text] In two recent letters from the Pakistan Awami Tehrik and the Sindhi Shagird Tehrik received here by political leaders, "organised attacks and assault on progressive politicians and students" have been deplored. The letter from the Shagird Tehrik has accused the Jiya Sind Students Federation of being responsible for all the incidents starting from the first week of October.

Similarly, the letter received from the Awami Tehrik Leader, Mr Ali Madad Shah, says that "certain extremist elements who are also preaching secession in the name of nationalism have let loose a reign of terror in which the people of Sind, particularly the students, are being victimised." According to the letter, dacoities, highway robberies, kidnapping of politicians and students have become a routine affair throughout the province.

Both the letters have cited a number of incidents of murder, dacoities, kidnapping and assault. Among these are the murders of Jamil Ahmad of the NED University, of Shafiqur Rehman of Chandka Medical College (December 4), of Ramchand of the Degree College, Larkana, the assault on Ayaz Latif Palejo, the son of Mr Rasool Bux Palejo in the campus of the Mehran University, on Dr Mustafa Nizamani and Dr Behram Nizamani at the LMC hostel, Hyderabad, and on Imtiaz Sammun of the Engineering College, Nawabshah and the kidnapping of Sarwar Bhind, Ghulam Mohammad Chalgari and Mukhtar Rahu (son of Fazil Rahu) from the Sind University, Tando Jam (November 26), of Journalist Hidayat Mangi from the Chandka Medical College, of Amir Ali Kobri from the Sind University, Jamshoro, and the attack on teachers of Degree College, Shahdadpur.

The letter from the Sindhi Shagird Tehrik states that its members were assaulted by the JSSF on more than 24 occasions between October 1 and December 8. According to the letter the incident took place at colleges in Larkana, Naseerabad, the Chandka Medical College and Vara and Ratto Dero High Schools. Similarly, a member of the Central Committee of the Pakistan Awami Tehrik was kidnapped from the Civil Hospital, Larkana, on November 30. Students of the Sind University, Agricultural University, Technical College, Khairpur, Muslim College, Hyderabad and Degree College, Thatta, have been similarly victimised. The letter says that the police, the Vice Chancellors of the universities and the heads of other educational institutions have expressed their helplessness against such lawlessness.

PAKISTAN

STRONG MEASURES URGED AGAINST CORRUPTION

Karachi DAWN in English 5 Jan 86 p 7

[Text] The Prime Minister has once again expressed his government's deep concern over the high incidence of corruption which has come to pose a grave threat to the moral and material well-being of society. An anti-corruption drive figures as an item in the socio-economic programme he introduced in his address to the nation on Tuesday. Earlier, the President, too, referred to the need for such a drive in his address to Parliament on Monday. Neither the problem nor some of the traditionally suggested remedies are new. But the fact remains that corruption which has been rampant in many departments of activity is assuming more serious proportions with every passing day. From the late fifties, all successive governments have taken cognisance of this phenomenon and tried to tackle it in their own way. President Ayub Khan tried his hand with an extensive screening of officials; Yahya Khan had his "303 operation"; the People's Party regime carried out the summary dismissal of about 1,300 officials. The last Martial Law regime included the fight against corruption in the 1982 year-long Islah-i-Muashra programme. Yet the hydra of corruption lives on, thrives and spreads to newer areas of life--and refuses to die. After every anti-corruption drive we have gone back to business as usual. The drive has been started and called off so often that official protestations of a desire to fight the evil do not normally elicit from the public a reaction of belief. Merely talking about starting a crusade against graft and corruption adds to popular scepticism about the possibility of arresting the scourge. It is, therefore, absolutely important that a sustained, organised and imaginative plan is launched to combat corruption and is seen by the people to be an effective operation. The credibility of the drive is one of the basic conditions of its eventual success. Once the people know that the Government is determined to root out corruption in all its forms and manifestations and has set up an efficient and incorruptible machinery to combat the evil, they will show greater courage in exposing and denouncing corrupt practices. Of course, those coming forward to testify will have to be assured that no harm will come to them. The deterrent effect on those in high places who are vulnerable to temptation will also be very considerable.

Corruption is found in many departments of life but it is in the administration that it does the most harm to the ordinary people. Directly or indirectly, the administration deals with nearly all branches of corporate life and the presence of the administration is felt everywhere and in everything. Ordinary people complain that when they approach a public functionary with legitimate business they can get things done only if they have the right sort of recommendation or if they can grease the functionary's palm. There are organisations and departments which have achieved great notoriety as dens of graft and corruption--and these include organisations which make purchases here or abroad, award contracts, assess the liability to pay taxes and duties and issue licences and permits. It is common knowledge that some young men opting for government service show a preference for organisations which offer such tempting opportunities. An increase in the functions and powers of the State has invariably added to the scope and opportunities for corruption. Publicly controlled enterprises, autonomous bodies and public utilities and agencies set up for executing and maintaining developmental works and welfare projects carry out duties and functions in which there is considerable room for making money illegally through dubious practices and dishonesty. A drive against corruption must, therefore, seek first of all to cleanse the Augean stables of the administrative machinery, including the plethora of publicly managed enterprises and autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies. Of course, there is another group which qualifies for equal attention, and this comprises holders of public and representative offices.

The people have a right to demand the highest standards of integrity and propriety from those who occupy ministerial offices or are members of elective bodies from the local to the Federal level. The idea that Ministers must file a declaration of their financial assets at the time they enter upon office and when they leave is an eminently reasonable one. The principle should also be applied to legislators and local councillors. It should not be supposed, though, that the mere filing of such a declaration by Ministers and legislators will clinch the matter and constitute a guarantee against lapses from propriety. Considering how dependent a responsible government is on the day-to-day support of the legislators, it is easy to see that a Cabinet must sometimes experience difficulty in making the legislators answer for their conduct. But the Government has no option in the matter. Either it abandons the pretence that it is determined to fight corruption or it does its duty. It is only when it is seen to be doing its duty in this area that it will acquire the moral right to combat administrative corruption. Besides, it is only legislators whose reputation for probity is above board who can adopt appropriate legislative measures against corruption in the officialdom. During the Ayub era many legislators were beneficiaries of government contracts or handouts, and the legislatures felt no urge to fight malpractices and dishonesty on the part of officials. While on the subject of official corruption, it is necessary to point out that in order to strengthen the administrators' defences against corruption and to enable them to act without fear or favour it is necessary to restore the safeguards the civil servants once enjoyed against victimisation by their political superiors. The erosion of the sense of security among officials has made many of them into yes-men and has been an indirect cause of an increase in official wrongdoing.

There are some who believe that it is not possible to weed out the corrupt official without the adoption of summary procedures, which are a negation of fairness and justice. Although successive governments in this country have felt no qualms about adopting summary procedures and even preventive detention for punishing their political opponents, we do not favour the analogy being pressed into service in combating corruption. It is not that we either adopt summary procedures against the corrupt or let them go scot free. It is, indeed, possible to go through the full legal process of indictment, prosecution and defence in an impartial court of law, provided that enough special courts are set up for the purpose and each case is decided expeditiously. The present laws on the subject can be revised, if necessary, to ensure that speedy disposal of cases is made possible without detracting from the fairness and impartiality of the trial and that deterrent punishment is provided for those convicted. However that may be, more difficult than the prescription of punishment and the mode of disposal is the framing of charges against influential individuals. Corruption travels from top to bottom and not the other way about. It makes absolutely no impact to catch the small fry like a clerk or a foot constable, which is what we have been doing. The need is to catch the big fish. Once we start doing that and awarding exemplary punishment to those found guilty after the process, we shall see the campaign making a proper impact. So far as detection of cases of corruption is concerned, it should not be too difficult to set up an agency of investigators to bring forward a charge and prepare cases. The corrupt in this country are very brave people. They do not hide their ill-gotten gains. The houses they live in, the drawing rooms where they receive their guests, the cars they and their children drive, the restaurants they patronise, the high fees they pay to foreign universities for the education of their (generally less than brilliant) children and the expenses they incur on the weddings of their sons and daughters--these are a few signs that the gap between the ostensible sources of income and the illegal acquisition is too wide to escape the attention of a Government which says it wants to fight corruption.

/9317

CSO: 4600/177

PAKISTAN

FUND FOR REHABILITATING BIHARIS IN PAKISTAN URGED

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 14 Dec 85 p 3

/Editorial: "Biharis Are Also Pakistanis"/

/Text/ During his recent visit to Bangladesh President Ziaul Haq met with the Biharis who want to move to Pakistan. President Zia assured them that the government of Pakistan has submitted a budget to Rabita Islami /council of Islamic countries/. As soon as this money is arranged they will be rehabilitated in Pakistan. The loyalty of these Biharis toward Pakistan is unshakeable. They sacrificed life and property in the struggle to establish Pakistan. When Pakistan divided into two parts as the result of our enemies' conspiracies and 90,000 Pakistanis became prisoners of war, these Biharis suffered very badly. They showed great bravery and kept hoping that one day they would be able to go to Pakistan. These Biharis were kept in an open camp where there were never enough food, water or medical supplies. Peter Cohen, representative of Medico International, a Swiss relief organization, in a dispatch to a magazine on 11 September, wrote that he did not witness such inhuman treatment of people even in Biafra where he worked earlier. Biharis were not allowed to leave camp or accept employment. The houses or shops they owned were confiscated and given to local people. Their bank accounts have been frozen. Most (80 percent) of their children are suffering from various diseases and there is no medical help. Christian missionaries took advantage of this situation and arrived with the Bible in one hand and food and medicine in the other. Thousands of desperate Biharis embraced Christianity in order to save their lives. Those with strong faith are still waiting and praying to God to maintain their religious faith. Things improved some during General Irshad's era, but they were still called the outsiders and not considered Bengalis. They are waiting for the day when they can return to their real country--Pakistan. These Biharis are very hardworking and talented people. With some training they can be sent abroad to earn foreign exchange. If we employ them in various factories and offices according to their abilities, they will not be a burden on Pakistan's economy.

Even the Senate has passed a resolution for rehabilitating Biharis. Nawabzada Abdual Ghafur, federal minister for railways, told the Senate the other day that the government is interested in relocating and rehabilitating Biharis. About 500 million rupees are needed to transport and rehabilitate these 250,000 Biharis. Only 35 million rupees are available as of now. Some Middle East rulers have promised preferred treatment in employment of these Biharis, who actually are Pakistanis, in various Arab countries.

This gesture by Middle Eastern countries is highly commendable. However, a better solution to this problem would be for those countries which are under-populated and have a heavy influx of jobseekers to take in a number of Biharis. Mr Sharifuddin should still try to persuade these countries to accept 10,000 to 15,000 families per country. These Biharis who have suffered all kinds of misfortunes and insults for 15 years are their Muslim brothers, too. If they cooperate, this problem will be solved in 1986.

Pakistan should fear God's wrath and the Biharis' backlash. They have 20 times more right to Pakistan than the Afghans who have become our responsibility for the past 5 or 6 years. These 250,000 Biharis are not Biharis; they are Pakistanis. Even a Bengali of the former East Pakistan, now Bangladesh, who cannot live there decently because of his loyalty to Pakistan is welcome to Pakistan as any hardworking Pakistani. He must, however, prove his right.

Even though we are a developing country we are spending over 5 million rupees daily on Afghan refugees. We gave 10 million rupees directly and then 25 million rupees in cooperation with other countries to help Bangladesh flood victims. We see no reason for not opening a fund to help these Biharis who are actually and in the eyes of international law Pakistanis. All people who were citizens of East Pakistan in December 1971 are citizens of Pakistan. These Biharis are Pakistanis. Our government should openly support this fund. If we try sincerely and appeal in newspapers, radio and television with the same level of zeal as we did for Bangladesh flood victims, there is no doubt that we will procure the necessary money. At the same time, Muslim countries can be persuaded to either donate money or accept a quota of these Biharis as their responsibility. We often read about Arab princes donating millions for research or tipping thousands of dollars to waiters in the United States. They can be encouraged to spend a portion of their unlimited wealth on this good cause. Welfare organizations and philanthropists in Pakistan should also help. They should go to Dhaka and see the situation for themselves. Anyhow, these Biharis are our moral and legal responsibility. In the name of God we should solve this problem in 1986.

In conclusion, we want to add that should the government start such a fund this newspaper will fully cooperate. We are sure that APNS, the organization of newspaper owners, will give sympathetic consideration for free publicity to such a fund.

7997/12228
CSO: 4656/36

PAKISTAN

PROPOSAL TO TURN PAKISTAN INTO BUFFER STATE DENOUNCED

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 5 Dec 85 p 4

/Article by Ataur Rahman: "Proposal to Turn Pakistan Into a Buffer State!"/

/Excerpt/ According to its national and religious identity and existence, the state of Pakistan is simultaneously a bearer of two ideological and regional courses. That is to say that among the community of the Islamic countries, Pakistan, at present, by dint of its military, is already the most powerful and established country. Also, on the basis of being an important country of South Asia, it is granted a universally accepted status of being a number two power in the region after India. All these countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal, for fear of India's superiority, turn to Pakistan to maintain the balance of power in the region. Recently, during the 1st week of this very month, a conference on regional peace was held at Katmandu. The topmost experts on foreign policy and military affairs of all the countries of South Asia participated in it. During the conference, an open expression was made of the fact that, excepting Pakistan, India is justified to treat all the other countries of the region in any way it likes. Pakistan's remaining neutral in the true sense of the word and progressing as it desires is the biggest obstacle in the path of India's superiority in South Asia. Moreover, Pakistan's voice of protest against Soviet intentions of gobbling up a Muslim country by might and its moral support of the Afghan refugees are totally unbearable for this superpower. In view of their respective gains, therefore, India and the Soviet Union want to divest Pakistan of its freedom to handle its foreign and defense affairs by turning it into a special kind of "Buffer State." Those thoughtful and wise Pakistani gentlemen, who, through their analyses, in order to bring this destination as close as possible, are smoothing out of the atmosphere here, in fact possess the same low-level intelligence that our rulers had in 1954 when, through defense treaties, they dragged Pakistan into the lap of America. The slavery of 150 to 200 years has shaped our collective psychology in such a manner that living as a second-class citizen among world nations has become a part of our subconscious. Yesterday, we were the apostles of America, and today we are teaching each other how to become the meaningless adjunct of the Soviet Union and India.

All these problems have come into existence because of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The gentlemen who support the Soviet Union by proposing through their analyses that Pakistan should be a "Buffer State" really desire that the

world should recognize the Soviet occupation of an independent country like Afghanistan. The country that from the Bolshevik revolution to 1978 was pro-Soviet in its foreign and defense policies and enjoyed the status of a virtual buffer state, has today lost its freedom. Within the country, an effort is being made to quickly impose a system on the honorable and highly religious Afghans which in no way conforms to their national heritage. As a result, the real Afghanistan, right now, in the war for its national safety and freedom, is fighting against a world power, that, in the beginning of the century, due to its ideological fervor, supported every movement of freedom against British imperialism. Now that that could have attained the status of a superpower, it is playing the same tricks.

There is only one solution to the Afghanistan issue. That is, that the Soviet forces should withdraw, and there should be a national government established there that is fully independent with regard to its internal policies and which respects that country's religious and social values and tribal culture in practice. Moreover, it should fully respect the Soviet Union's interests regarding its foreign policy and defense matters.

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PAKISTAN

NATION URGED NOT TO WASTE RESOURCES ON ARMS PURCHASE

Karachi AMN in Urdu 3 Dec 85 p 2

/Column "From Jumma Khan's Pen": "Many Countries Possess an Extremely Weak Defense But Do Not Face Any Danger From Their Powerful Neighbors"/

/Excerpt/ It is true that defense should be strong and impenetrable and that no nation should ever be negligent with regard to defense. However, no one ever explains why the weak countries, more than 150 in number, are not frightened of the powerful neighbors that surround their borders, and why their freedom and independence have faced no danger so far. Also, what magic lamp do they possess which helps them to maintain their existence?

Nepal has China on one side and India on the other. Sri Lanka's military strength compared to that of India is nothing, while Bangladesh is surrounded by India.

If Saudi Arabia is an elephant, Yemen is just an ant.

Albania has Greece on one side and Yugoslavia on the other.

What about Cuba compared to America?

Numerous such examples can be given inviting contemplation.

After all, why do Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Yemen, Albania and many other countries whose defensive strength is just nominal not purchase sophisticated jet-bombers, submarines and tanks, etc.? It could be said that they are extremely underdeveloped and that their financial resources are limited. If that is the case, then tell us, does Pakistan own goldmines, or is it an oil-producing country?

Our minister for treasury, Dr Mahboobul Haq, while addressing a world conference of treasury ministers in South Korea last month, expressed concern over the fact that many Third World countries are spending a lot of money on arms purchase, as a result of which their economic development has become impossible. He also raised the question as to whether we needed a bottle of milk for our children or weapons to entertain them.

Just a few days earlier, the president, Gen Ziaul Haq, had also said that if, for the past 6 years, Iran and Iraq, two neighboring Muslim countries, had not been involved in war, they could have built roads of gold.

War is the most expensive game that can be played by any country, developed or underdeveloped. If a country does participate in it, it is preparing for suicide. In today's world, the price of sophisticated weapons is higher than the price of gold. You can either buy an airplane or open up a factory and grant employment to 500 to 1,000 individuals, or you can either purchase a destroyer-ship or establish 10 factories. Similarly, you can either buy a submarine or establish five big factories.

Arms are not acquired for show; rather, they are purchased for some purpose. If that objective can be accomplished without the acquisition of arms, why should we waste our wealth on arms? First it should be decided what the dispute is which leads to the threat of war. Then it should be determined whether we have the capability to settle that dispute peacefully. After that, we should determine whether, if due to that dispute, someone becomes our adversary, we can overpower him. Then, we should examine our resources regarding the purchase of highly sophisticated weapons. The needs of the people are above all else. There is no dispute that is impossible to resolve through political means.

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PAKISTAN

OVERPOLITICIZATION OF EDUCATION CRITICIZED

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 28 Nov 85 p 3

/Editorial: "Books Not Weapons!"

/Text/ Sayyed Ghaush Elishah, chief minister of Sind, while talking to a deputation of youth at Khairpur recently, stressed that the responsibility for spreading the Islamic viewpoint and national defense rests on the country's youth. He added that some wayward elements are misusing youth to attain their own selfish goals. The chief minister advised the young men to carry books, instead of weapons, in their hands and to pay attention to their education.

We cannot deny the importance of the chief minister's comments. The sad thing is that despite such rhetoric about the country's future being in the hands of our youth from all serious groups, our young men are still being led astray like sheep. Young men, in any country and not just Pakistan, are the future of their countries. The responsibilities of Pakistani youth, however, are of much more import because of our ideology, for which this country was founded. Since Pakistan was established, one generation has grown old listening to the same old story that the next generation will be more responsible. The older generation, which brought this country into existence with their courage and hard work, is to blame to an extent. They just gave the country to the youth and expected them to run it. Had the younger generation been told about all the sacrifices that were made to form this country, then perhaps we would not have to complain that our young men are puppets in the hands of antinational elements. There is no doubt that young men in colleges and schools played an important role in the establishment of Pakistan. They left their books and pens and helped pave way for the emergence of Pakistan by spreading the word in every village. Politics was introduced in schools at that time, but only because the time demanded it. The demands of times of peace and war, however, are different. In a smart nation, the young men pick up their books after the war. That is what real political savvy is. However, some specific elements, to fulfill their specific objectives, have placed destructive weapons in the hands that should hold only pens. There is always a supply of such youth who go for misuse of power. The situation is so bad now that all educational institutions have become centers of combat and conflict. We hear cracks of bullets where there should be discussion on education. Dormitories have become arsenals. In Sind, especially in Karachi, a new regionalism has spread. Student organizations based on various territories have sprung up just for showing off their strength. The blame for this trend lies with the politicians who thrive on factionalism.

It is a wellknown fact that even criminals take shelter in college hostels. They commit crimes and then hide in these safe hostels. Even the police are afraid to raid these hostels. The students of Karachi do not have access to modern weapons. However, during a recent skirmish with the police, the well-known robber, Iman Allah Mubarak, used modern weapons. He and his fellow robbers were also hiding in a college hostel.

This incident exemplifies the role of educational hostels. For this very reason Shah Mohammad Pasha Khouro, minister of internal affairs, was forced to say that these hostels will be closed if such terrorist activities are not stopped. He told newsmen that he will recommend to the prime minister that all university hostels be abolished because of the prevalent lawlessness and use of firearms there. Alternate plans for housing out-of-state students will be made. He added that educational standards in universities are negatively influenced by the presence of weapons and increasing use of drugs by students in these hostels.

Hostel accommodation is very important for students, especially those from out of town. They are provided room and board at nominal rates so they can focus on their studies without worrying about their upkeep. The days when students came to a college for education are over. Any program, regardless of its importance and benefits, must be curtailed when it is excessively abused. If this situation persists, the hostels must be closed. Students from outside may be given some kind of scholarship for living expenses. In context with the statement issued by the chief minister we would like to mention, however, that not all students have played into the hands of these antinational elements. By the grace of God, most of our students are patriotic. They know their enemies and support the cause of Pakistan. Unfortunately, however, the policy of our government not only discouraged these patriotic young men, but also provided opportunities for terrorists to work underground in educational institutions. Our leaders never tried to encourage these patriotic young men and to use them to neutralize the antinational forces. Had this happened, these young men would not be complaining today.

They would not be playing into the hands of subversive elements. The government has seen that banning student organizations has resulted in increased terrorism, conflicts and riots and a deteriorated educational environment. Nothing good was accomplished.

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PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

KHAR BROTHERS JOIN PML--Lahore, Jan 9--Khar brothers, Malik Ghulam Murtaza Khar and Malik Ghulam Kazi Khar members of National Assembly on Thursday joined the Official Muslim League after a meeting with the Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif. Earlier they had refused to join the party during Prime Minister's visit to Lahore. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 10 Jan 86 p 1] /9317

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END