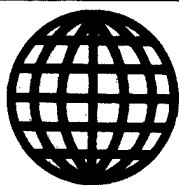


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Near East & South Asia

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NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA

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BRIEFS

ALGERIAN-PDRY COOPERATION--Algiers (APS)--Algeria and the Democratic Republic of Yemen decided to create the conditions for an intense (?commercial) exchange, a condition for a close cooperation which should be an example. Mr 'Abd-al-Jabbar Rashid minister of labour of the Democratic Republic of Yemen before his departure from Algiers Tuesday at the end of a 5 day visit in Algeria. The Yemeni minister headed the delegation of his country in the works of the third joint session meeting in Algiers from 12th-15th June. The works of the joint commission on Monday with the signing of two protocol of agreement dealing with the executive program between the two governments for the years 1987 and 1988 in the scientific and technical field on one part and in field of information, culture tourism and public health, of youth and finally vocational training. [sentence as received] The documents also encourage the reinforcement of structure of information, youth, sport of the two countries to coordinate their action so as to exchange experiences and the delegation in virtue of these accords, Algeria will build a station of telecommunication, an electrical central a project for a road and the achievement of two centers of vocational training. [sentence as received] In field of vocational training, the accords deal with training in Algeria Yemeni trainees the assistance in field of pedagogic programs and the setting up of a Yemeni national vocational training system. [Text] [Algiers APS in English 1312 GMT 17 Jun 87 LD] /9599

COOPERATION WITH YAR--Algiers, 25 Jun (APS)--The works of the third session of the Algeria-Yemenite joint commission ended Wednesday here under the chairmanship of minister of commerce, Mostefa Benamar, and Muhammad al-Khaddam al-Wajih, minister of economy, commerce and supply in the Arab Republic of Yemen. During this ceremony, the two ministers signed a number of scientific, cultural, and technical documents and agreements on health, information, tourism and the exchange of experiences between the two countries. The two sides also signed a commercial convention aimed at boosting commercial exchanges between the two countries and facilitate the entry of goods. The convention also provides for the organization of specific fairs and exhibitions about the national production of each country. In this context, the first fair of Algerian national production will be held in Sanaa before the end of 1987. Finally the two ministers signed proceedings of the end of the works whose results are considered as very satisfying by the two sides. [Text] [Algiers APS in English 1135 GMT 25 Jun 87 LD] /9599

CSO: 4500/115

ALGERIAN-LIBYAN COMMUNIQUE ON UNITY PUBLISHED

PM290910 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 18 Jun 87 p 3

[APS report: "Algeria-Libya: Economic Complementarity, Maghreb Integration--Text of Press Communique"]

[Text] The Algerian-Libyan talks on the occasion of the visit to Algiers by Commander 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, member of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah's Revolutionary Command, culminated Wednesday with the publication of a press communique, the text of which we publish below:

"In accordance with the political will of the Algerian and Libyan leaderships and within the context of the implementation of the conclusions of the In Amenas and Sidra summits that brought together President Chadli Benjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Algerian Republic and secretary general of the FLN Party, and Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution, in accordance with the plan of action jointly adopted with a view to satisfying the Algerian and Libyan people's aspirations with regard to building Arab Maghreb unity, an important stage on the way to the unity of the Arab nation, and also within the context of the periodic meetings between the two countries' leaders, Commander 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, member of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah's Revolutionary Command, led an important delegation--composed of members of the People's General Congress Secretariat, the General People's Committee, and the Revolutionary Committees Movement--on a visit to Algeria from 14-17 June during which it was received by President Chadli Benjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the FLN Party.

"The Libyan Arab delegation had talks on political, economic, and legislative matters with an Algerian delegation led by Politburo member and Central Committee Standing Secretariat Chief Mohamed Cherif Messaadia and composed of members of the Central Committee Standing Secretariat, the government, and the National Popular Assembly and economic officials.

"The meeting is in line with the two peoples' shared aspiration to establish solid bases for joint action in all fields.

"In a fraternal atmosphere characterized by a profound awareness of a shared future the two delegations had a series of intensive discussions during which

they reviewed the results of the work done by the political, executive, and legislative working groups.

"In the political field the two sides noted that favorable conditions exist for achieving the hoped-for objective, with a view to meeting the aspirations of this region's peoples for their countries' unification as an essential step on the way to total Arab unity.

"In this connection the two sides examined a policy document on a union between Libya and Algeria, to be submitted to the two countries' leaderships.

"In the legislative field the General People's Congress Secretariat delegation had several meetings with the speaker and members of the National People's Assembly which broached ways of harmonizing the two countries' legislative experiences and which yielded proposals aimed at unifying their legislation according to a precise timetable.

"In accordance with a joint action program between the two countries a commission composed of General People's Committee Secretary 'Umar al-Muntasir and members of the Libyan Jamahiriyah's National Popular Assembly on one side and candidate Politburo member and Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahim and members of the Algerian Government on the other discussed the whole range of ways to achieve complementarity in the economic, industrial, cultural, and social fields.

"Accords for the creation of joint companies between the two countries were also signed and both general and specific economic programs aimed at the joint objectives and complementarity pursued by the two peoples were drawn up.

"Both sides expressed their satisfaction with the steps taken in the implementation of the joint action program adopted by the two countries and agreed to continue their meetings in accordance with the established timetable."

/9599

CSO: 4500/115

EGYPT

NEAR EAST

PAPER SAYS MUBARAK 'SHINING LANDMARK'

NC230840 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 23 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)--The AL-AKHBAR newspaper says that Egyptians will have a good opportunity to demonstrate their appreciation and gratitude for President Mubarak when they reelect him for a second term next October. The paper stresses that his presence at the helm for the past 6 years has been a shining landmark in Egypt's history and the beginning of an unprecedented era of true democracy under which both government supporters and opponents live in security, freedom, and stability.

In an article published today, the paper says that no one can deny the massive achievements in the economic, political, and social domains during Mubarak's rule. The government has worked painstakingly to alleviate the people's hardships and to tackle accumulated crises in almost every aspect of life in the country, a heritage of foregone mistaken policies and wars that took a heavy toll in terms of lives and money.

There have been plots, sedition, and destabilization attempts during Mubarak's first term, incidents which could have tempted another ruler to tighten his grip and restrict freedoms and democratic rights, the paper says. Despite that, Mubarak, a man of cool temperament, forged ahead with his plans to build up democracy on an increasingly solid basis, his firm belief being that democracy alone would safeguard the nation. The paper stresses that the stability, democracy, and freedom that Mubarak has brought are essential for the country and emphasizes that Mubarak's achievements need to be developed further.

/8309

CSO: 4500/118

EGYPT

NEAR EAST

NDP PLANS RALLIES TO NOTE MUBARAK ACHIEVEMENTS

NC210502 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 20 Jun 87

[Text] The NDP's political club resumed meetings this evening at NDP headquarters. The meeting was attended by Dr Yusuf Wali, NDP secretary general, the deputy prime ministers, ministers, and some NDP members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council.

Dr Wali told a radio correspondent that the social allowance [Al-'alawah al-ijtima'iyah] that President Husni Mubarak announced yesterday for state employees represents the beginning of a campaign linking salaries with prices. He added that the number of outlets for distribution of commodities will be increased soon to meet citizens' needs easily and quickly. He said that the government plan seeks to increase agricultural production, especially of grains, to satisfy consumer demand and to limit dependence on other countries, particularly for wheat.

Dr Yusuf Wali said that the NDP Secretariat General has received thousands of cables from citizens, various establishments, and labor unions insisting that President Mubarak be nominated for a second term of office in light of his outstanding achievements in domestic and foreign areas. He added that the current 5-year development plan has achieved its targets, thanks to the president's wise leadership.

The NDP secretary general added: In view of these cables, the Secretariat General will hold political and mass rallies to explain President Mubarak's achievements since assuming leadership of Egypt. These rallies will start next Tuesday [23 June] and last through early July. The NDP secretary general, assistant secretary generals, members of the Secretariat General, the deputy prime ministers, and the ministers will attend these rallies.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that an international conference for peace in the Middle East represents the best option for resolving the Palestinian issue. He added that Egypt is holding talks with all parties concerned with the Palestinian issue in this regard.

/8309

CSO: 4500/118

INTERIOR MINISTER BLAMED FOR DISCONTENT

PM151523 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 1 Jun 87 p 1

[Unattributed Report: "Interior Ministry's Attitudes Are Cause of Public Discontent"]

[Text] AL-AHRAR has learned that General Intelligence has submitted a report to President Husni Mubarak on the attitudes of the Interior Ministry. It states that the recent attitudes of this ministry under Major General Zaki Badr are among the main reasons for public discontent, over and above economic fluctuations, which have led to a continuous increase in prices. The report confirms that the State Security Investigation agency is resorting to serious practices, which will provoke popular resistance to it, since all its actions are based on terrorism and physical liquidation.

The General Intelligence report demands a reduction in the number of detainees awaiting trial in order to ease the discontent against the government spreading among the Egyptian people because of Zaki Badr's attitudes, now attributed to the president of the Republic.

President Husni Mubarak is expected to issue a decision within the next few days releasing all detainees not proved guilty in connection with the incident against Abu Basha [former interior minister]. AL-AHRAR has learned that this report will be the direct cause of Zaki Badr's removal from the Cabinet in the next shuffle.

The state has decided to pull the carpet from under the feet of the State Security Investigation organ after its failure to arrest the perpetrators of the assassination attempt against Abu Basha, despite arresting all members of Islamic groups whom the Interior Ministry unjustly and aggressively accused of carrying out the attempt.

This task has now been assigned to the National Security Branch of the General Intelligence, which will control and verify the reports the State Security Investigation agency sends to the presidential security office, as well as guarding the country's senior officials. This fact has already been published by AL-AHRAR.

/8309

CSO: 4500/118

AL-AHALI CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT POLICY STATEMENT

JN191143 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 10 Jun 87 p 1

[Editorial: "A Government ... That Must Go"]

[Text] The government's policy statement before the People's Assembly has become a boring and routine ritual, packed with verbose phrases and figures which lose their meaning because the policy statement contains no bases on which these figures are established. The policy statement must contain an accurate, explicit definition of the principles which govern the practices of the state and the most important lines and decisions which translate this policy. This is something which has completely been lacking over the past years.

The policy statement Dr 'Atif Sidqi delivered last Saturday is no different than its predecessor which the government delivered 6 months ago, that is on 29 December 1986. During this period, the economic, social, and political crisis tightened its grip on the country in an unprecedented manner. In light of the prime minister's affirmation that the government will pursue the strategy and programs that were announced last December we cannot but expect further deterioration of the state of affairs on all levels.

The prime minister had set five axes for the government's action in the forthcoming stage with domestic stability and national security as priority topics. This is sound and correct because without a stable domestic front and the attainment of security in the true sense of the word there can be no development or any tackling of the grinding economic crisis or of the social tensions.

However, the government's concept of how to translate this through practice is an erroneous concept in part and parcel. The policy statement is blatant proof of this concept which conflicts with real stability and sound security. The policy statement is the quintessence of the contradiction which exists between words and deeds. While the policy statement speaks of the supremacy of the law and the abidance by all state authorities of its provisions, these same state authorities insist on violating the constitution, the law, and the court rulings in a blatant manner, as was the case in the 1987 elections when these state authorities ignored the rulings passed by the higher constitutional court and the administrative court considering the results of the elections null and void and as is the case daily with the torture operations and the nonabidance by the courts rulings on many issues.

When the policy statement emphasizes the importance of democracy, it offers us a definition of only one of its aspects, that of freedom of expression. Actually, freedom of expression becomes embodied in the freedom of the opposition papers while it does not exist in the so-called national press, radio, and television. The concept of democracy as being the right of citizens to freely choose their representatives to the various government bodies is also nonexistent and becomes, in practice, a usurpation of these rights by the authorities through falsification and violence.

The policy statement also observes silence on the most important issues that preoccupy public opinion and deal with democracy. The statement makes no mention of the emergency law that has been governing us over the past 6 years. It also makes no mention of the violence, counterviolence, and terrorism which we are now experiencing. It also does not give any figure for the number of the detainees. The interior minister says their number is approximately 1,000 while a presidential source tells foreign correspondents that there are 2,000 detainees and press sources report that their number has reached 4,000.

This was not the only issue the policy statement did not mention. The statement did not discuss the polluted foodstuffs, hoof-and-mouth disease, the crimes of misappropriation of public funds, corruption, mass cheating, and sectarian sedition. All of these issues are grave and have preoccupied and continue to preoccupy public opinion.

When the policy statement dealt with the price increases a discussion took place on this issue but no definite solutions were proposed to this problem.

The policy statement is a bankruptcy petition by a government that must go.

/8309

CSO: 4500/118

BRIEFS

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH CANADA--Cairo, 22 Jun (MENA)--Egypt and Canada today signed an agreement on trade cooperation by which Canada will provide Egypt with raw material and commodities worth approximately \$15 million over the next 3 years. The agreement was signed by Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and international cooperation, and Mark Byron [spelling as received], Canadian ambassador to Cairo. [Excerpt] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 22 Jun 87 NC] /8309

PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH CSSR--A protocol was signed between the Radio and Television Union and a CSSR company at the union's headquarters this afternoon. Under the terms of the protocol, the CSSR will supply equipment to replace and renovate the Middle East radio's transmission system at (Adis), effecting a 2.25 megawatt increase. The new equipment is expected to go into operation in March 1989. [Excerpt] [Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Jun 87 NC] /8309

NEW POWER PLANT--Cairo, 15 Jun (MENA)--A contract for the establishment of Egypt's first floating power plant was signed at noon today. The plant will be erected off the coast of Marsa Matruh, with a capacity of 60,000 kilowatts. The contract was signed between the Egyptian Electricity Authority and a group of Japanese firms. The plant will cost \$110 million and 5 million Egyptian pounds and will be financed by the Japanese Fund for Economic Cooperation, within a loan featuring easy terms. Electricity Minister Mahir Abazah said the plant will be operational within 24 months and will provide electricity for tourist and land reclamation projects in the northern coast area. The barge-mounted plant will operate on natural gas extracted from fields in the Western Desert. [Summary] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 Jun 87 NC] /8309

CSO: 4500/118

ISRAEL ACHIEVES SUPERCONDUCTIVITY

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Jun 87 p 5

[Article by Lisa Perlman]

[Text]

PHYSICISTS around the world are jumping up and down like electrons about it. One meeting in New York devoted to it was dubbed the "Woodstock of physics." The latest issue of *Technion* calls it the "hottest field in science." Others add it is bringing about a technological revolution.

It is superconductivity.

It is about converting sooty-black chunks of ceramic compounds into magnetically levitated superfast trains, into super-small but power-packed computers, into a power station in the Negev that could serve outlying areas via super-efficient transmission lines, and into a host of other applications.

Superconductivity was discovered in 1911 by Dutch physicist Heike Onnes who cooled the element mercury to near absolute zero (-273.007C or, as designated by scientists, Kelvin) and found that at that temperature, the element had lost its resistance to electric current. This resistance in common conductors is responsible for a significant loss of energy when electricity is converted to heat.

Since then hundreds of chemical elements and compounds have been found to be superconductors near that temperature. But they had to be cooled, and until now this meant using rare and expensive liquid helium. The cost did not often justify the effort.

That is, until January this year. Then a research team headed by University of Houston physicist Paul

Chu discovered a ceramic compound combining barium, yttrium, copper and oxygen that became a superconductor at breakthrough temperatures of 93K, to be pushed to 98K within weeks. New records have been claimed almost weekly since.

Moreover, they achieved this using common warm liquid nitrogen as a coolant. Liquid nitrogen is 10 times cheaper and 20 times more effective than liquid helium, previously the only viable cooling agent.

Chu and others are optimistic about achieving the same results eventually at a balmy 300K, or room temperature.

ABOUT A month ago, Israeli teams achieved superconductivity at 230K.

Indeed, Israel was not slow to jump on the superconductivity bandwagon. Senior lecturer of physics at the Technion, Dr. Josef Ashkenazi, has been researching the field since 1975 and is credited with being the first physicist here to realize the value of U.S., Swiss and Japanese achievements in superconductivity.

He and his colleagues, Prof. Charles Kuper and research assistant Raquel Tyk, are enthusiastically involved on the theoretical side, analysing, via computer, how superconductivity is achieved on the atomic and electronic level. "We tell the experimentalists where to look next," Ashkenazi says.

The enthusiasm has spread to the Ministry of Science and Development, too. On Monday, Director-General Ya'akov Saphir announced that the ministry had decided to set up a group to study the superconductivity situation here. Appointed to the group were Prof. Guy Deutscher

(Tel Aviv University), Prof. Meir Vager (Hebrew University) and the Technion's Kuper. They are to submit their findings in November.

In addition, the Binational Science Foundation recently issued a call for research proposals in the area of superconductivity. Joseph Van Zwaren, coordinator of Physics at the National Council for Research and Development, a ministry body, says that recent developments in the field have a "tremendous range of applications" here in a variety of fields - and right now.

"Israel cannot avoid the issue," he stresses, "or it might lose out," adding that Israel could quickly lose its competitive advantage in those areas where it leads today.

Dean of the Technion's Physics Faculty, Prof. Yakov Eckstein agrees: "The issue is not whether we can compete with the rest of the world; the fact is that we can't be in the scientific world if we don't participate in this work," he is quoted as saying in the late most recent issue of *Technion*.

A MAY meeting held on the subject held at the Hebrew University attracted some 250 participants - five times the number expected. They included academics and members of industry either actively involved or interested in the "most important scientific advance since the discovery of electricity." Fifteen papers were presented, showing an impressive amount of activity around the country, according to Van Zwaren.

The meeting examined theoretical aspects as well as the significance of superconductivity for Israel. This includes improving the efficiency of existing products and developing new ones, such as microelectronic devices; energy storage; in the field of medical technology, employing electromagnetism on diagnostic imaging devices to show cross-sections of human organs. Scientists believe there are many other military, commercial and high-tech possibilities.

Until recently, companies such as Elta and Tadiran expressed scepticism about Israel's ability to develop its own new devices. Israel is

systems-oriented, they said; why not leave it to Japan and the U.S. to do the inventing and we can take it from there? And, it is true, Israel does not have the resources to compete with these countries.

One industry source even cautioned that at this point anybody is capable of cooking up the basic ingredients for superconductors and achieving the right results. But the rub is finding immediate and appropriate applications.

Nevertheless, a turnaround in industry is evident as more and more companies are seeking their own ways to improve and update products and, most importantly, keep - or better - the edge they might have on the market.

Two hundred and twenty Israelis hooked up to Bitnet (the research network for scientists) are specifically interested in receiving the latest information on superconductivity.

Israel's decision to thrust itself full throttle into this new world is an important one. It must be made now, urges one industry observer, "or it will be too late."

/9274

CSO: 4400/224

ISRAELI LAW RULES OVER QUR'AN IN LANDMARK CASE

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Jun 87 pp 1, 9

[Article by Bradley Burston]

[Text]

BEERSHEBA. - In what may prove to be a landmark decision, the local district court yesterday declared that the Koran cannot be used to circumvent the rights of women under Israeli law, specifically with regard to the practice of polygamy and to a husband's forcible imposition of his sexual desires on an unwilling wife.

"From this day onward, let the accused and the members of his community be advised: No woman is the property or the chattel of any man," said Judge Gilad Giladi at the conclusion of a complex rape and bigamy case involving members of a traditionalist Beduin tribe.

"A woman has the full right to refuse sex to any man," Giladi continued, "including her husband, and under no circumstances does he have the right to force himself on her."

In court yesterday, Salman Abu Jildan, 42, was sentenced to a year in prison after pleading guilty to having forced his 16-year-old second wife to have sexual relations with him.

According to trial testimony, early last year Abu Jildan, of the Azazme tribe, concluded an agreement with Salaam Abu Assa, 50, by which each man promised to marry the other's teenage daughter. Although Abu Jildan's daughter, one of eight children by his first wife, abided by the terms of the pact, the marital agreement was contrary to the wishes of 16-year-old Fatma Abu Assa, Abu Jildan's betrothed.

In her testimony, Fatma stated that after their wedding in April, 1986, Abu Jildan beat her repeatedly and threatened to kill her if she refused to submit to him sexually.

She stated that during the first months of their marriage she often ran away from her husband after being forced into sexual relations. At first, she sought refuge with her immediate family, she told the court, only to have them return her to Abu Jildan to signify their adherence to the terms of the marital agreement.

Later, she fled to Beersheba, where she was advised to complain to the police against her husband.

Abu Jildan's attorney, Haim Cazes, did not dispute the girl's testimony, but based his defence on precedents in Islamic law. "Marital agreements

of this kind, while unreported to the (Israeli) authorities, are not uncommon among Negev Beduin," Cazes told *The Jerusalem Post*. "According to the laws of Islam, the agreement, and the husband's wishes, must be honoured."

But Cazes's plans to call as witnesses a number of authorities on Islamic law were cut short by a plea-bargaining process that resulted in a guilty plea and yesterday's sentencing hearing.

In asking the court to impose a strict penalty, prosecutor Zilla Kenan stressed the physical and emotional trauma the girl had undergone as a result of the marriage, and attacked Cazes's invocation of Islamic law.

"There can be only one set of laws for all citizens of Israel," Kenan said. "In a democracy, you cannot have a judicial system that differentiates among members of different religions and deals differently with each category."

"Is there really only one set of laws for all?" countered Cazes. "Or is there one for the poor and one for the rich? Look at all the sheikhs in the Negev - each one has four, five, even six wives, and lives on in peace, while my client, a man without influence, is in jail."

Cazes quoted Jewish sages as saying that a man must be warned before he can be punished. "My client had no idea he was doing anything wrong," said Cazes, citing 20 previous court cases in which a Beduin's taking a second wife had been regarded as tantamount to a Jew's taking a mistress.

"The Koran obligates her to sleep with him even if she does not want to. It never occurred to my client that this constituted rape."

In passing sentence, Judge Giladi noted that the law had not been strictly applied in the past, and said that Abu Jildan's sentence would have been much more severe were this not the first ruling of its kind.

KAHANA OUSTED FROM KNESSET

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Jun 87 pp 1, 2

[Article by Dvorah Getzler]

[Text]

Kach MK Meir Kahane yesterday defied Speaker Shlomo Hillel and talked himself off the Knesset rostrum and out of the plenum. He lost almost all Knesset membership privileges until he agrees to make the standard pledge of loyalty to the state and its laws - or if the High Court rules that Hillel has exceeded his authority in asking Kahane to repeat the pledge.

But Kahane, "for better or worse" democratically elected to the Knesset, as Hillel put it yesterday, is not to lose the immunity from prosecution that all MKs enjoy once elected, nor is he to be barred from the Knesset building. He will also continue, "for the time being," to get his salary, said Hillel.

Hillel argues that Kach, as a duly elected party, is entitled to have its staffers in the building, and that Kahane cannot be treated with less consideration than is extended to the party's secretary.

Yesterday's expected fireworks in the plenum turned into a damp squib. Kahane was absent from the chamber when Hillel opened the session with an account of how,

when Kahane took his seat in 1984, he had added a verse from the Book of Psalms to the standard "I undertake" response expected of members after having the pledge of loyalty read to them.

The then attorney-general Yitzhak Zamir ruled at the time that while Kahane had indeed been out of order, the declaration should be accepted since it had gone unchallenged. Other religious party MKs had also added "with the help of God". (In fact, National Religious Party leader Yosef Burg, who had administered the pledge, made repeated efforts to have Kahane abide by the rubric.)

The problem surfaced again, said Hillel, when Kahane, in fighting a legal battle in the U.S. to keep his American citizenship, had sworn an affidavit that he had not pledged loyalty to the State of Israel but rather "to observe your God's laws, always and forever."

Hillel said he had then asked Attorney-General Yosef Harish for an opinion and, on the basis of Harish's response, had summoned Kahane to repeat the pledge in the

prescribed manner, with no additions, at yesterday's session.

Unaware that Kahane had just then entered the chamber, Hillel was about to read the ultra-right-wing MK out of the plenum when other MKs drew his attention to Kahane's entry.

The MK, who has often expressed racist views, came up to the rostrum at Hillel's invitation, a Bible clutched in his hand with the place in Psalms marked.

Hillel repeated the pledge and Kahane said "I undertake." Then, after a long pause, "to keep your (God's) laws, always and forever," he said with a smirk.

Hillel, the light of battle in his eyes, told Kahane that he had again failed to pledge loyalty as required, had in fact refused to do so, and that from now on his status would be that of an elected MK only.

That would bar him from the plenum chamber and all committees, Hillel said. Other restrictions might be taken after the Knesset's legal adviser had been consulted, Hillel indicated when members protested that that was insufficient.

/9274

CSO: 4400/224

VETERAN'S LAW NOT BEING UPHELD; 'NOT EXECUTED'

Tel Aviv BAMAHAANE in Hebrew No 24, 4 Mar 87 pp 20-21, 46

[Article by Hanokh Sheynman: "Excuse Me, a Mishap"]

[Text] "But after the elections passed and the winner won and enacted the law that he sought, writing that such-and-such ministers would perform such-and-such acts, he created a real legal duty obligating ministers to carry out the duty imposed on them." (From the verdict by the acting president of the Supreme Court regarding the Kanovitz law for the prevention of hazards and air pollution).

Colonel Barukh Avrahami, head of the Counseling and Legislative Branch in the military advocacy, one of the drafters of this law, explains the connection between the Kanovitz law, which has come to exemplify a byword for nonimplementation of a law, and the veteran's law discussed in this article.

"The veteran's law, like the Kanovitz law, is a dead letter in the book of laws. It is simply not executed. If the Knesset enacts a law, it is inconceivable that the administration, clerical staff, and government offices do not give it a practical content."

Every year, the Veterans' Guidance Unit in the Ministry of Defense faces thousands of veterans and guides them, as best as it can, toward all the channels and opportunities existing in the state: studies, vocational training, and employment. For 2 years the unit has been under the pressure of veterans seeking to put the veteran's law into effect as published, but has been unable to help them to do so.

Beni Badrash, director of the unit, says: "We try to explain the paragraphs in the law to a veteran, and we have no answer to soldiers demanding the rights that the state, for budgetary reasons, does not put into effect. We hope that with the improvement in the economy the government will be able to put the law into effect exactly as written."

The news was received on 2 July 1984. The charter of the veteran's law was submitted for the second and third reading on the last day of the 10th Knesset, on the eve of the elections. Knesset members from most factions competed for the support of this law, and it was adopted almost unanimously.

According to Knesset member Dov Shilansqi (Likud), who initiated the law, the object of the charter of rights included in the law "is to reduce the circumstantial gap created to the detriment of the person fulfilling his duty to the state, and to grant him achievements similar to the achievements of those who did not devote 3 or 4 years to the IDF." Shilansqi also said the following: "It seems to me that the State of Israel is good to its sons, whose loyalty is questionable, at the expense of those whose loyalty to the state is boundless and complete."

When the law was adopted, there were Knesset members, mainly from the right, who attributed its importance to its national contribution to the prevention of emigration, unemployment, and gaps. Other Knesset members, mainly from the left, perceived the law more as a reward or compensation for the beautiful years that a young man gave to the state. The all-around support, festive declarations, and modest nature of this law, which satisfied itself with the establishment of basic and understandable rights, not all of them involving the budget, created an unexaggerated expectation that the amendments which the law needs to be implemented will be made within several months. What has changed since the law was adopted 2 and 1/2 years ago? What was the fate of the news? In this article we will deal mainly with the "educational paragraphs" of the veteran's law. The other paragraphs, which are less significant, are discussed separately.

Eli 'Alfi, 22-year old, a veteran in a good situation. What does a "good situation" mean? Eli does not come from a family with many children, is not the son of an unemployed father, and his family's economic situation is reasonable. In fact, he lives in Ra'anana. After he had finished a hard military service in the Golan Heights as a member of the armored corps, Eli decided to follow a difficult and long road: to enhance his matriculation certificate, to try to get accepted to the Faculty of Law at the university, and to realize his private dream. Today he takes the preparatory preacademic (to be distinguished from the prelaw) course at Tel Aviv University.

Where does the problem begin?

Eli: "The criteria for economic support for students in the preparatory course are socioeconomic. My father is a high school teacher with an academic degree. Therefore, I don't receive support and I must pay the full tuition of 2,250 shekels."

Today 1,500 veterans, like Eli, take preparatory courses and pay a full tuition, and thousands of other veterans improve or complete their high school education in private institutions at the average price of 350 shekels per course in one subject. The vicious circle that Eli presents in his following statement repeats itself with respect to almost all the veterans that are not supported substantially during the completion of their high school education.

Eli: "If I want to get good grades in the preparatory course--after all, no one comes here in order to get 6--I cannot work. The faculties that are the least sought after at the university demand an average of 85 upon completion of the preparatory course, and prestigious faculties demand an average of 95.

I have to devote all my available time to this. On the other hand, I have to work (because I am already a big boy who wants to be independent), to rent an apartment, and to stop being a burden on my parents. I want to emphasize that we are not miserable. Nevertheless, the economic burden of my studies is beyond our ability."

The important news, or more precisely, the news which was supposed to be important in the veteran's law, was the "educational paragraphs," that is, paragraphs 9, 10, and 11. The legislator's intention (and perhaps there never really was such an intention) was to give the soldier an advantage in financing the completion of high school education, gaining admission to the university and housing, and financing (through a loan) studies in higher educational institutions. In view of the actual results, this was not news, but merely a declaration of intentions. Nothing remains of those good intentions. The story of the "educational paragraphs," which are the basis for the entire veteran's law, began with high tones and ended with the sound of the tune of defeat.

Paragraph 9 of the veteran's law establishes that the Ministry of Finance will pay 75 percent of the tuition of a veteran completing his high school education (that is, for a full matriculation certificate) at an educational institution administered under the supervision or with the approval of the Ministry of Education. The law leaves the rules and amendments necessary for its implementation to ministers of education and finance.

This right acquired in paragraph 9 is not a "favor" or a privilege for a veteran, but is self-evident, because a law regarding free high school education exists in the State of Israel. There is no logic in giving free high school education only to those that can complete their studies before the age of 18. It is not fair to deny the right to free high school education to a boy or a girl who, for reasons not under their control, have not managed to complete their studies before joining the army and try to do this after their discharge from the IDF.

Paragraph 9 kept the Knesset and the government busy beyond all proportions, but was never put into effect. Until last year it was never put into effect, directly contrary to the law. In order to prevent the continued violation of the law in broad daylight, last July the Ministry of Finance and the government submitted a proposal to postpone the implementation of this paragraph until September 1987 because of a "lack of budgeting." The proposal was accepted by the Knesset following a compromise proposal by the Ministry of Finance, according to which it will add 4 million dollars to the budget of the Ministry of Education, owing to which the number of study places in preparatory courses will be increased by about 2,000 during this academic year.

Simultaneously with this eroding of the original rights, the Ministry of Education decided to give a reduced interpretation to paragraph 9 and to limit the right to financing recorded in paragraph 9 to preparatory courses alone. A soldier interested in studying in a private external high school must manage the high costs himself. As is well known, many soldiers are interested in working during the day and prefer to study in an evening high school,

especially if they want to complete their matriculation certificate in a small number of subjects.

The Mishlav Institute, Kikar Hamedina, Tel Aviv, 8 pm. The place is filled with veterans. Everyone we met had something to say, but, in fact, everyone wanted to say the same thing. Debi Eylati's statements represent the feeling of most veterans whom we met at Mishlav.

"I spent my service in the investigating military police of Qastina and then in prison 4 as a noncommissioned officer rehabilitating prisoners. Those were difficult jobs. Today I am completing my matriculation certificate in four subjects. After a discount my studies cost me 1,240 shekels. Before my matriculation I contracted pneumonia and almost missed all the examinations. The army promised me that I could complete my matriculation certificate during the service. I registered in an IDF high school, but one day the commander called me and said that too many people from the base studied and this hurt their military functioning.

"I stopped my studies and decided to finish them after the army. I am unable to do this. I have to pay carfare, for books, and photographs, as well as rent. I have an overdraft of 1,000 shekels and next month I will have to make another payment to Mishlav and the overdraft will reach 1,300. I have no choice but to look for work, any work--washing floors. I will not get more than this without a matriculation certificate. I am afraid that work will harm my studies. The teacher explained to us that those who wanted a matriculation certificate must invest. In addition to 4 hours of homework every day we have to spend 10 hours a week on reviewing the material. Tell me, how can one manage with the time? Eighty percent of the people here are night guards, or bake bread at night, live with their parents, and despite this get into tremendous debts. The people who study here can comfort themselves only with a better future, although the future is in danger, because of present troubles."

So, a veteran studying in a private institution receives a discount of 20 percent. In preparatory courses, as in the past, support is based on social and economic examinations; that is, support is given only to those meeting the criteria of being "worthy of advancement." The executive authority completely ignores the law and its central idea, according to which a veteran is worthy of support because of his service as a soldier in the IDF, not because he is needy.

Why is the government stubborn?

According to deputy minister of finance 'Adi Amorai, paragraph 9 can cost a total of about 12 million dollars annually. Amorai: "This evaluation is based on data on veterans in an age group without matriculation or graduation certificates. Since the law establishes that a veteran will receive rights for up to 3 years from the day of his discharge, it is clear that during the first year of operation of this law this paragraph can apply to soldiers from three age groups."

A total of 12 million dollars says something about Israel's significance as a law-abiding state. Is this a sum of money that can undermine the economic plan?

Moshe Hava, a deputy in charge of the budgets in the Ministry of Finance: "First of all, this is a substantial sum. Second, paragraph 9 creates a sharp and clear discrimination in favor of basic education at the expense of vocational training. We don't scorn the completion of education, but in a developing economy the emphasis should be on work and employment. A full financial backing was given to paragraphs concerning vocational training. With regard to the claims that support for education prevents emigration I would like to note that, even if a veteran is given 5 years of free education, he will run away. One cannot live from a matriculation certificate."

The Ministry of Education thinks differently. Dr Satuy Palti, director-general of the Association for Advancement in Education:

"The Ministry of Finance makes the calculation by the maximalist method out of caution. Its calculation is based on the assumption that almost everyone that is discharged from the IDF and does not have a full matriculation certificate will jump at the opportunity and go to study. According to our estimate, not all veterans will want to realize this right--only about 10,000 every year. We need only 4, not 12, million dollars for the full implementation of paragraph 9."

Hayim Zarmon (22), a veteran, takes the preparatory course at Tel Aviv University: "Those who do not take a risk with a certificate do not receive assistance...like me, for example. Look around you: The place is full of new immigrants who receive full financing for the preparatory course and the first degree. Four years of study free of charge. I prefer to leave the country."

11439

CSO: 4423/22

GUSH EMUNIM SECRETARY CRITICIZED FOR ANTI-KIBBUTZ REMARKS

Tel Aviv KOTERET RASHIT in Hebrew No 224, 18 Mar 87 p 4

[Article: "To Whom Is the Gush Loyal?"]

[Text] Gush Emunim is again undergoing a crisis: members are demanding that its leadership be dismissed. One member is even suggesting that its name be changed. They are claiming that under the leadership of Gush Emunim secretary Daniela Weis, who is under the influence of Rabbi Moshe Levinger from Hebron, Gush Emunim is moving to the right. It is tightly closed in its fanaticism and is entirely absorbed in the defense of underground prisoners. The debate has intensified recently owing to statements attributed to Weis that the kibbutzim allegedly represent a "failing settlement" (Weis denies this quote, which was first published in MA'ARIV). The debate between the "doves" and "hawks" in Gush Emunim is held, among other places, in the pages of NEQUDA, the newspaper of the settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The Purim issue, except for a few letters to the editorial department, devotes no less than eight pages to this debate.

Tzvi Mozes, a clinical psychologist from Qarney Shomron: "There are side phenomena, such as an exaggerated and nostalgic preoccupation with ancient times and a difficulty in adjusting to necessary changes. It seems that it is hard not to notice the nostalgia (and the exaggerated preoccupation with the Sebastian period) and the difficulty that the new population in the settlements is having with adjusting and developing. What today characterizes the veterans of Gush Emunim--the people who pushed for quick achievements at the beginning of the road--is the fact that they turn out to be administrative officials afraid that control will slip out of their hands, and they slow down processes, fearing the dynamics of change necessary for growth and development. There is a recurrent and exaggerated use of ideological concepts, until their meaning is eroded and becomes empty, which happens to those tired of hearing leftist concepts about 'democracy' and the 'rule of law.'

"I propose a more sophisticated organizational structure. In my estimation there is an advantage in changing the name symbolically, despite the fact that what is really important is the inner realization that we have reached a difficult, new stage. This also calls for a change in leadership. In order to grow and develop, the settlement must stand in the center of the political map, not at its edges, and it must detach itself from an extremist

nationalistic image. Only in this way will a more heterogeneous population be able to flow into settlements."

Menahem Fruman, a rabbi from Teqo'a: "Regarding the theory stating that the left's great influence is attributed to the fact that a small group has gained control over the communication media and uses the media to impose its will, this seems as serious to me as the theory attributing the power of religion to the fact that several fraudulent priests stupefy the masses of believers from the temple, which they control.

"If, God forbid, the last leftist leaves the country, I will still face my serious problem: How will the Zionist enterprise not lower its spiritual standard? How to continue raising the standard of the Jewish religion?

"I see with sorrow, not with malicious pleasure, the big decline in Israeli socialism, including the loss of identity. Will we succeed in building by denying the value of our political adversaries?"

Yitzhaq 'Armoni from Ramat Magshimim, one of the first settlers in Hebron, right-hand man of Rabbi Levinger and until recently head of the regional council of the Hebron Mountain: "I see how Gush Emunim, under the leadership of Rabbi Moshe Levinger and Daniela Weis, is greatly and dangerously distancing itself from our way in the past.

"We are being led to a narrow and marginal corner in the nation. The insensitivity of the leaders to perceive the extent to which Gush Emunim today has become a tightly closed movement and no longer constitutes a drawing power for many and for the continued reconstruction of the people of Israel... Those that were put in charge of implementation followed a line different from what had been agreed upon. Instead of rehabilitating the movement, they devoted most of their time to the cause of the 'underground.' Their actions and expressions quickly alienated members of 'Merkaz Harav,' council heads, and other senior members. The message that began to be heard, mainly from Daniela Weis, was that of haughtiness, a message that did not bring people together, but alienated them.

"Weis and Levinger began more and more to truly identify with the actions of the underground, This culminated in the unfortunate article in which Daniela explains to us that, indeed, the actions of the 'underground' are irregular and undesirable under ordinary conditions; but based on the sayings of Rabbi Quq of blessed memory, while quoting from his books, it is allowed from time to time to break the rule and to follow a special road of leaps for the sake of progress by the people of Israel. I am sorry, but since when has the secretary-general of Gush Emunim become an authorized commentator on the sayings of Rabbi Quq of blessed memory as applied to the present time?

"In fact, great damage is done to the image of Gush Emunim among the wide public (and, according to many, great damage is done to the prisoners themselves and to their family members as a result of this activity).

"The last subject pertains to publicity and communication media (when Daniela Weis called the united kibbutz movement a 'failing settlement movement'). Do

we lack true enemies, real foes of Israel, Heaven forbid? Do we need to arouse against us the entire camp of the kibbutz movement, which has many members close to us in their views? Was Daniela blindfolded to such an extent?

"In short, it seems to me that we must renew Gush Emunim and refresh its leadership as soon as possible."

Vito and Ela Weitzman, formerly from Moshav Sadot, today in 'Eyn Habsor, some of the heads of the movement for stopping the withdrawal from Sinai, in an open letter to Daniela Weis: "We (and, as we have become convinced, many others in Judaea and Samaria) believe that your slanders against the kibbutz movement can do damage! It is well known that the kibbutz movement is in the most difficult period in many respects--education, values, economy, and perhaps more. The statements are heard well inside their camp, not only in the general media. Your statements against them clearly echo malicious pleasure--a phenomenon, which is faulty even among foes and enemies."

Gush Emunim secretary Daniela Weis, responding to her critics in an article, surveys at length Gush Emunim's private and public activities during the last few months, which included renewing the settlement and attracting new settlers, encouraging immigration from the United States, South Africa, and the Soviet Union, increasing the Jewish community in Hebron, and debating over improving the security situation on Hagay Street in the Old City of Jerusalem.

Weis: "From all these activities, the activity for the sake of the 'underground,' or criticism against the kibbutzim, have made the headlines and evoked anger. The critics' arguments focus on the 'detachment from the people,' on sectionalism, and even on the haughtiness with respect to various sections of the public. Excuse me: Who, in fact, are the people of Israel, from whom we detach ourselves, or toward whom we have a haughty attitude? Are HA'ARETZ, or DAVAR, or MABAT LEHADASHOT the true witnesses of what people think and like?

"I have never uttered the words a 'failing settlement' with respect to the kibbutz movement, or any other body. Nor did I say that the kibbutzim are not a productive movement. What I did say was that the settlement in Judaea and Samaria was economically successful. I believe that the kibbutz movement, with all its vast and splendid contributions to Israel's revival and flourishing, is not exempt from in-depth moral self-evaluation. This evaluation will clarify not only how the kibbutz movement has accumulated such immense economic deficits, but also how it has happened that for years many of its members have been engaged in a war against the settlement, against those who continue to realize the ideology espoused by their founding fathers.

"For who-knows-how-many times: In no way should the activity of the Gush Emunim secretariat for the release of underground prisoners be interpreted as an expression of identification with the prisoners' actions. Full stop. This activity promised the commitment of friends toward colleagues who got into big trouble and assistance to members in the movement, members with whom we traveled and will still travel a long road of construction, creation, protest against evil, and encouragement for the prisoners' wives and their children.

"We aspire to continue moving the boat of Zionism ahead with the participation of the entire nation."

ENERGY FROM GALILEE WIND FARMS

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Jun 87 p 5

[Article by Doron Pely]

[Text]

IT MIGHT not be the answer to our ever-increasing electricity bills. But in an age when nuclear power plants score very low on the popularity scale, and coal dust and other pollutants rain on us from every power plant site, the answer, at least partially, is literally blowing in the wind — in the form of electricity-producing "wind farms."

Pumping electricity from wind is not a novel idea. Always on the back burner as a last resort, wind energy got its chance to show off in the early Seventies when soaring fossil fuel prices pushed up the cost of producing electricity and forced companies to take a hard look at various alternate power sources.

The centre for wind power research and experimentation is environment-conscious California where 95 per cent to the 15,000 existing wind turbines in America twirl along the Pacific coast.

Several dozen countries are interested in wind power, including Israel, where a survey conducted in the late Seventies revealed an exploitable potential of 1,000 megawatts (equal to the electricity output of a large conventional power station).

The most promising areas for wind energy are Upper Galilee, the Golan Heights and the Negev. "The Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure determined locations of high exploitability potential, and now we are working with interested private parties in those locations on the development of pilot projects and wind farms," says Dr. Avraham Arbib,

director of research and development division at the ministry. Arbib sees wind energy as the most economically feasible alternative resource in this region.

So far, government and private efforts have resulted in three operating wind turbines. The first turbine was installed in 1985 near Alonei Habashan in the Golan Heights. The 55 kilowatt turbine, a project of Mei Golan, a local water cooperative, is capable of supplying enough electricity for 70 households. The second turbine (200 kw) was erected near Kibbutz Ma'aleh Gilboa, and a third (225 kw) turbine was installed by the Israel Electric Corporation (IEC) in the Yodfat mountains. All the turbines are connected to the national electricity grid and IEC is obliged to purchase, at competitive prices, all the electricity they produce.

The second phase of the wind energy experiment will take place next year when a wind farm containing 10-15 turbines will be erected at the Alonei Habashan site. The project will be financed by Mei Golan.

The Energy Ministry is participating in several innovative research efforts by private companies aimed at producing low cost turbines. One such company in Sivan, whose inflatable turbine offers a radically different rotor design.

ROBERT Lynette, an American wind energy consultant makes his living from the wind power industry, but that does not prevent him from being critical and cautious about it.

"All the wind turbines in operation in America today produce about

the same electricity output as a large nuclear power plant," he said recently in a lecture before a mixed university-industry-government audience at the Israeli Institute of Petroleum and Energy in Ramat Aviv.

Lynette describes his attitude towards wind power as cautiously optimistic, and hastens to follow up with the warning: "If you jump into it unprepared, it might be disastrous."

At today's prices and with current technology, wind power electricity costs twice as much as electricity produced by conventional coal-burning power stations. But this unfavourable situation is expected to change within the next decade, making wind energy a viable competitor.

"We are moving very slowly and with extreme caution, trying to avoid the mistakes of our predecessors in California," said Arbib.

The main enemy of wind power plants is bugs. Dead insects coat the blades of the rotors, causing a change in the shape of the air-foil and a marked drop in productivity. Scientists are concentrating on developing "rough surface" blades that will not be so severely effected by a decrease in the smoothness and shape. Electric generator engineers are directing their efforts at creating variable-speed machines that will not be so sensitive to the constant change in wind velocity.

Computers figure heavily in the progress of wind power. Signals from dozens of sensors along the rotor, gears and generator monitor the unit's condition constantly, controlling the blades and turning off the operation if wind velocity in-

creases above safety limits. Computerized monitoring equipment makes it possible to operate remote sites from a central location and alert staff in the event of a breakdown.

Though hardly a polluting industry, wind farms have their problems. Some 4,000 whirling blades in a huge wind farm such as the one near the posh suburb of Palm springs, California, can be a sore sight, and the resulting noise is not negligible. Lynette warned his audience to pay attention to residential reaction near proposed wind farms sites in Israel.

He puts most of the blame for the unglamorous record of electricity-producing wind farms at the feet of investors and engineers in the industry in America. "At its inception, the industry was not an honest venture but a tax shelter. It was approached with a cavalier attitude, and now we have a lot of humility in the engineering departments and a lot of junk out in the field," he said.

The results of this "cavalier attitude" were devastating. Wind power today produces less than 50 per cent of the energy promised. Investors lost a lot of money and the level of confidence in the industry plummeted. Manufacturers and investors learned their lesson the hard way. "Now the industry is changing into a serious business. It's more institutionalized - less rich doctors and lawyers," said Lynette.

"Israel is doing exactly what it should be doing right now in terms of determining the locations of potential sites. You have the wind resource, and it should be exploited smartly," said Lynette.

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NEW MACHINE GUN FOR IDF

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Jun 87 p 2

[Article by Ya'acov Friedler]

[Text]

HAIFA. — A new machine-gun that is lighter and tougher than the IDF's standard, Belgian-made MAG, has been developed by the Military Industries. The head of the development team, Adi Fleshker, is to display the new weapon at the 21st Israel conference on mechanical engineering to be held at the Technion this month.

The new gun weighs only seven kg., compared with the MAG's 12 kg., and fires lighter bullets especially developed for it.

The new rounds can penetrate a steel helmet at a range of 800 metres, according to Military Industries

deputy-director, Nitzan Halevy.

The gun will be cheaper than the MAG, and production, scheduled to be in full gear within a year, is slated mainly for the IDF, though export markets are also being studied.

The conference will feature other new developments in arms production, including a new shell with a high level of maneuverability.

The Belgian FN company, which manufactures the MAG, has also developed a smaller machine-gun which has already been issued to armies in Belgium, South-East Asia and the U.S.

Some 1,000 engineers and scientists are expected to attend the conference.

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CSO: 4400/224

ISRAEL

NEAR EAST

BRIEFS

NEW IDF WIRE TAP REGULATIONS--Tel Aviv--The IDF is in the final stages of drafting new regulations governing secret wire tapping. The regulations will determine who may authorize wire tapping for security purposes or to combat crime. The issue arose recently after it was discovered that phones of senior members of the defence establishment had been tapped with Rafael Eitan was chief of general staff. According to unconfirmed reports the tapped phones included those of Mordechai Zippori, then deputy defence minister and Dan Shomron, the current CGS. The new regulations require the defence minister's approval. [Text] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Jun 87 p 1] /9274

AGRICULTURAL TEAM TO EGYPT--A delegation of Israeli agriculture and Foreign Ministry officials left yesterday for a visit to Egypt, where they are expected to sign an agreement to increase Israeli-Egyptian agricultural cooperation. The delegation, headed by the Agriculture Ministry's Prof Shmuel Pohoriles, is expected to agree to an increase of Israeli assistance and to the establishment of another Israeli-aided agricultural station near the Nile. [Text] [Jerusalem THE JERSUALEM POST in English 11 Jun 87 p 2] /9274

CSO: 4400/224

KARAMI'S ASSASSINATION SAID TO PROMOTE RADICALISM, DISUNITY

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 6 Jun 87 pp 20-21

[Article by Salim Nassar: "The Assassination of Karami: the Second War in Lebanon"]

[Text] On the first day of June, Prime Minister Rashid Karami was assassinated, that is at the beginning of the month in which his name was linked with the great defeat, in the year of the 20th anniversary of the occupation and 12 days before the date of the murder of his northern friend the late Toni Sulayman Franjiah.

Karami was the fifth political leader to be killed by the Lebanese war, after Ma'ruf Sa'd, Kamal Junblatt, Toni Franjiah, and Bashir Jumayyil. However, he was the only leader whose life was the price for a role he did not seek, for a war that he did not start and for an issue the maze of which he always refused to get involved in.

Therefore, his presence at the Lausanne conference was considered a political protest by means of which he wanted to assure the fate of the moderates and show the position of those who sought peace.

He succeeded to a certain extent in maintaining Mu'awiyah's hair [a delicate balance] between President Amin Jumayyil and his enemies in the ministry. Likewise, he succeeded, after the revolution of 1958, in containing the differences within the quadripartite government which existed in President Fu'ad Shihab's era. Using this flexible and balanced style, Rashid Karami was able throughout the years of the war to continue to perform his duties as a third influence removed from the conflicts between the local, regional and international forces. The national loss represented by the elimination of his distinguished role may be the greatest loss that the people of Tripoli in particular, and the northerners in general, have suffered because of his death. This is a fact because Rashid Karami was a political symbol as much as he was a local leader. That is, he represented more than other Lebanese leaders did. Thus, it can be said that his loss was the loss of the element of moderation among extremists and his absence is the absence of the role of mediation among adversaries. Perhaps the traits of patience and forbearance armed him with an extra strength, which he knew how to put to use ever since he was chosen by President Camille Sham'un in 1955, with encouragement from

the late Emile Bustani, to be the youngest prime minister in the history of Lebanon. It is said that the fact that he came from the North was the deciding factor because it eliminated the embarrassment of selecting among the traditional candidates from Beirut. It seems that this experiment proved worthwhile, since he was chosen 10 times during the past 30 years. His help was sought only in difficult situations, for reasons relating to his ability to deal with national crises, as happened in the eras of Fu'ad Shihab and Charles Hilu.

Rashid Karami's absence from Tripoli will without doubt cause a great political vacuum in the inherited Sunni leadership, the protection of which all the factions have sought since the days of his father 'Abd-al-Hamid Karami. Such a comparison is not appropriate for Ma'ruf Sa'd, Kamal Junblatt, Toni Franjiyah or Bashir Jumayyil. Their political legacy continued through sons or grandsons and grew through brothers and relatives, whereas the legacy of the effendi will be faced with a crisis of leadership, since he represented the last leader of the Karami line. This means that his Muslim and Christian supporters will be distributed among the small leaders who have flourished in the absence of Dr 'Abd-al-Majid al-Rafi'i and the withdrawal of the al-Muqqadim family from the competition. In light of these changes, it is expected that extremist religious movements will grow and that radical tendencies will become more significant, a fact which will make the bourgeois class, which Rashid Karami protected, the big loser, since Tripoli, the second capital of Lebanon, represents the center of Syria's maritime security. Its future political worries will be in the forefront of the Damascus government's concerns.

Is Rashid Karami's assassination the start of another war in Lebanon?

The question that is always brought up following such assassinations focuses on the primary beneficiary of assassinations. The answer may be difficult and easy at the same time, because the perpetrator is not interested in the act as much as he is in the reaction. It does not matter who the actual killer is; what does matter is who the Muslims believe to be the killer. This is what explains the campaign of rumors and accusations that have hinted at a number of sources and indicated that they are the first and last beneficiary of the results of Karami's assassination. It is logical that these rumors be of the inflammatory addendum-type capable of escalating the campaign of revenge, exactly as happened after the assassinations of Kamal Junblatt and Bashir Jumayyil. Those who were killed in revenge were not either closely or remotely involved in these two assassinations. Hence the interest of observers in the connection between the policy of increasing violence in Lebanon and what is happening in the Gulf and what happened last Sunday in the South after the "Badr Kubra" operation.

Politicians in Lebanon continue to attribute the motives for this crime to more than the direct results. They say that the criminals expected to achieve a number of goals through Rashid Karami's assassination.

First: They wanted to bring about a crisis in the regime by making a frightening proclamation that would perhaps eliminate the delicate balance between Amin Jumayyil on the one hand and Salim al-Huss, Walid Junblatt and

Nabih Birri on the other, or even between Jumayyil and Taqyi-al-Din al-Sulh, Malik Salam and everyone whom the crisis would prompt to cooperate to fill the void and bolster the regime. If the boycott lasted a long time, the president would have to seek the help of the army commander in order to form a transitional government similar to the government of Bishara al-Khuri in 1953. At that time, this temporary constitutional solution would inevitably result in opposing reactions whereby the opposition in West Beirut, the South, the Shuf Mountains and Tripoli would announce another position centered on a new Sunni leader who would be the Dinkatash of the next phase.

Second: The foreign press unanimously speculated that this crushing blow was aimed at weakening the role of the Sunnis and eliminating the traditional leadership of the Muslims in Lebanon in general by means of attacking their leaders in Sidon and Tripoli. These are the two distinguished cities that replaced West Beirut in leadership after President Sa'ib Salam left al-Musaytiba and after the other Sunni leaders were subjected to intimidation and cooption. This means that the traditional role will gradually be shifted from Sunni responsibility to Shiite responsibility because of the necessity to confront the waves of violence and sectarian repression. This is reminiscent of the shift which resulted from intimidation in the Christian areas when several factions were eliminated and thus the unarmed minority had to seek protection from the militias, notwithstanding differences in ideology and purpose.

Third: The perpetrators of the assassination may have expected to effect a radical change in the rules clashes on the Lebanese scene. Some observers believe that the operation was for the purpose of inciting the Sunnis and provoking them to arm themselves so that they would establish their own militias that would be committed to protecting them, just as was the role of the Murabitun before 1982. This long-term goal falls within the context of the cantons, in view of the fact that the Sunnis alone (along with the Orthodox Christians, of course) have continued to preserve the ties of national unity. They did not abandon their allies or isolate their regions. The assassination would compel them to think of their fate and to work to revive the Sunni cantons in the areas where they are concentrated, such as Sidon and Tripoli.

Whatever the efforts to explain the motives of the assassination, there is a simple and clear reason that offers answers to many questions. It is the answer concerning the attempt to destroy Lebanese national unity, the centralized state and everything that represents the country's restoration of health, stability and continuity. This is the most profound answer and the most truthful explanation of everything suggested by this terrible event that has proven once again that civil strife has not ended and that its champions are plotting in secrecy. It has also proven that attempts will continue against those who have been chosen for assassination or those who have been saved from being assassinated on various occasions in a chain of the required purges in order to feed the flames of war. This is dictated by the rules of the political assassination game that has helped kindle the fire of the Lebanese war, through both action and reaction. This same question was raised after the murder of Ma'ruf Sa'd at the end of February 1975. It was repeated after the assassinations of Kamal Junblatt, Toni Franjiah, and Bashir Jumayyil

and after the many failed attempts to assassinate Camille Sham'un, Walid Junblatt, Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid, Salim al-Huss, Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, Mustafa Sa'd and Taqyi-al-Din al-Sulh. All of these, because they were Lebanese symbols representing, at various stages of the war, the fuel necessary to kindle the flame of civil strife, just as the connection between the assassination of the deputy mayor of Sidon Ma'ruf Sa'd and the beginning of the Lebanese war is clear.

During the last meeting between Rashid Karami and American Secretary Shultz in New York, the Lebanese prime minister told Shultz: The country is taking practical steps to preserve national unity and escape from the permanent state of war.

Shultz refused to believe in the existence of this positive initiative and told him that Lebanon was no longer considered a nation in the true sense of the word, but that it was a center for the export of terrorism and violence in the world. He expressed his hope that before beginning to organize a state, he would begin to eliminate the state of violence.

The effendi answered with his well-known coolness: Freeing Lebanon from this state of violence requires that the political reasons, which have compelled it and the peoples of the region to use these methods, be removed. Weak and oppressed peoples try to defend their dignity and interests with various means of pressure. The terrorism issue is not a Lebanese responsibility as much as it is an international responsibility related to oppression and coercion. The terrorism that takes place outside of Lebanon is not Lebanese terrorism as much as it is the result of the movements that feed violence and exploit religion in order to sustain the conspiracies and regional problems existing in the region.

When Rashid Karami offered this opinion to Secretary Shultz, he was referring to the relationship between Lebanese violence and all the problems of the region and to the connection between the events in the North and everything that has happened in the South. Perhaps his evaluation of the Lebanese situation was a diagnosis of the foreign grip that allows violence to continue to grow, just as it allows the heroes of violence to be sustained by the tragedies and chaos in order to create the conditions that permit the destruction of the nation, the fragmentation of its unity and the collapse of its institutions. However, the leader of Tripoli confronted this harsh grip and moved forward on the straight path. On it, he tried to make political activity the only means of protecting the Lebanese scene and the only path toward freeing the nation of its historic crisis.

The martyr who possessed this conviction has fallen and has paid the same price that is paid by those who view the future of Lebanon as Rashid Karami did.

13292

CSO: 4404/391

NEW DECREE ADJUSTS EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION

Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 19 May 87 p 6

[Text] Minister of Labor President Salim al-Huss announced yesterday a draft regulation to adjust wages for the second half of 1986 after it was approved by Prime Minister Rashid Karami and Finance Minister President Camille Sham'un and after he signed it and sent it to the state Consultative Council for its opinion in preparation for its being signed by President of the Republic Amin Jumayyil.

The draft regulation provides for the following:

1. The minimum wage for those who were working before 1 January 1987 is fixed at 4500 pounds or an increase of 59 percent. Thus the total increase that is given to employees who received the minimum in 1986 is 2300 pounds, a 100.4 percent increase.
2. The minimum wage for those who began working after 1 January 1987 is fixed at 4300 pounds, an increase of 50 percent.
3. Wages that employees received on 30 June 1986 are increased by 45 percent on the first part of the salary of 8,000 pounds and by 35 percent on the second part of the salary above 8,000 pounds, provided that the increase does not exceed 6500 pounds and is not less than 1200 pounds.
4. This law is effective beginning 1 January 1987.

Thus, the percentages of the increases that employees receive for all of 1986 are the following:

--100.4 percent for the minimum.

--85 percent for the first part of the salary, given that the first half was 6,000 pounds in the compensation adjustment law for the first half of 1986 and 8,000 pounds for the second half.

--65 percent for the second half of the salary, given that the maximum increase was 4,500 pounds in the compensation adjustment law for the first half of 1986 and 6,500 pounds for the second half.

The draft regulation did not specify the percentage increases due to employees who began working between 30 June and 31 December 1986, although it stipulated that their wages should increase proportionately according to the date that they began work between these two dates.

In this regard, sources in the Ministry of Labor said that these employees would benefit by 1/6 each month, so that those who began work in July 1986 would benefit by 5/6; in August, by 4/6; in September, by 3/6; in October, by 2/6; and in November, by 1/6. The increase for those who began work in January are limited to the minimum.

Text of the Draft Regulation:

Article I: Beginning 1 January 1987, the official minimum monthly salary is set at 4,300 Lebanese pounds and this is applied in accordance with the provisions of Articles I and II of Law No. 67/36 of 16 May 1967.

Article II: Added to the salaries that employees received on 30 June 1986 is a cost-of-living increase of:

1. 45 percent on the first part of the salary up to 8,000 Lebanese pounds.
2. 35 percent on the second part of the salary in excess of 8,000 Lebanese pounds, provided that the increase is not less than 1,200 pounds for employees covered by the minimum wage in accordance with the provisions of Articles I and II of Law No. 67/36 of 16 May 1967 and is not more than 6,500 Lebanese pounds.

Article III: The increase specified in Article II of this regulation benefits those whose work contracts date back to before 30 June 1986. The salaries of those who began service between 30 June 1986 and 31 December 1986 increase proportionately according to the date that they began service between these two dates.

Article IV: In order to calculate the value of the cost-of-living increase that concerns this regulation, the base salary that the employee was receiving before benefitting from any conciliatory cost-of-living increase granted to him after the implementation of Regulation No. 3653 of 24 January 1987 is used.

Article V: An increase clearly described in the contract, regulations, records or administrative statements that was granted because of an increase in the cost of living after the implementation of Regulation No. 3653 of 24 January 1987 until the issuance of this regulation and that covered all the employees of the organization without exception and at one time is taken into consideration when this regulation is applied.

Employers have the right to deduct this increase from the value of the increase determined by this regulation. If the increase is more than the increase determined by this regulation, he may not reduce it. If it is less, the employee receives only the difference.

Article VI: The provisions of this regulation are applicable to all employers and employees subject to the provisions of the Labor Law of 23 September 1946 and contracting on a percentage basis.

Article VII: This regulation is published where necessary and is effective beginning 1 January 1987.

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CSO: 4404/388

CLERIC DENOUNCES DISPLACEMENT OF 'UNDESIRABLES' FROM SOUTH

Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 19 May 87 p 3

[Text] The deputy chairman of the Supreme Shi'ite Islamic Council, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, expressed disbelief at the deportations in the South and affirmed that every deportation not related to the Israelis is an illegal deportation. He demanded that the parties responsible put an end to it and announced his disapproval of the killings that have occurred in the South.

Shaykh Shams al-Din received yesterday a delegation from the committee for displaced southerners.

Shaykh Shams al-Din spoke before the committee and said: We consider the issue of the deportees one of the shameful and disgraceful marks on the Islamic scene and a difficult and painful mark for the South in particular, whether this concerns people without any affiliation or those belonging to any political organization, provided that they are not connected to the Israelis and their agents and even if they have a conservative position not in harmony with the Islamic and national atmosphere.

He added: "We believe that every citizen in the South has the right to work and live with dignity provided that he has no connection to the Israeli occupation and its agents. With regard to political affiliation, we have no reservations about the safety, dignity and freedom of any person who belongs to any political framework. People are free and have the right to have any affiliation and express their affiliation in a manner that respects the freedom of others and the struggle against the Israelis and that respects the general Islamic and national position toward the Lebanese regime. The mere affiliation of any person to any party is not a legitimate reason to bother him, let alone threaten him. Thus we are dumbfounded by this phenomenon of deportation and we do not believe that it is due to the political situation of this deportation. We think that the deportation that has been carried out under the pressure of fear and threats cannot be allowed to happen or continue. We appreciate all the efforts of the workers and professionals to fulfill the needs of the people. Political competition according to the conditions that we mentioned is competition in which we see no problem. Thus, we consider deportation and political reasons not connected to the Israelis

illegal and we demand the parties responsible for it to work to end it and to help those who were victims return to their regions safely and with dignity.

Shams al-Din said: We have strongly denounced the incidents that occurred against doctors and others and we believe that their murder because of political and partisan reasons, and because of differences in opinion is a reprehensible act and constitutes a crime that cannot be approved and that must not be repeated. When the incidents were reported to us, we made efforts so that nothing else would happen. We have not stopped our endeavors and are still following the events in order to put an end to these activities and assaults on individuals. I recommend that this issue not be publicized, because this might make the situation worse and it is being handled wisely and responsibly. I am making every possible effort with all political circles in the South and on the Islamic and national scene to help put an end to this painful and reprehensible phenomenon.

He concluded by stating: I say to everyone involved that the Islamic and national forums have very great responsibilities on the domestic level regarding current activities to reform the Lebanese system. They also have great responsibilities to confront the Israeli occupation and its plans to fragmentize Lebanon. These two responsibilities confer great honor on whoever undertakes them. Before these two great responsibilities, there must be a minimum of unity of word and unity of ranks so that the forums are not torn to pieces and then need to be glued back together, because the ambiguity and battles of the South have helped reduce its immunity and increased its cracks. Those who bear these responsibilities must make efforts to preserve a reasonable degree of solidarity with regard to the responsibility of correcting the internal situation and the responsibility of confronting the Israeli occupation. I will do what I can to ensure the safety and dignity of everyone. We ask God to help us serve people in these blessed days, the days of the martyrdom of Imam 'Ali, the representation of his morals, his path and his behavior, the assumption of political orders in his society and the treatment of everyone with justice, mercy and affection within the limits of what the general Islamic welfare dictates.

Shaykh Shams al-Din also received former Minister Marwan Hamadah, who thanked him for his condolences upon the death of his father. On this occasion, the general political situation in Lebanon was reviewed.

13292

CSO: 4404/388

MAURITANIA

NEAR EAST

SPAIN FOOD AID AMENDMENT APPROVED

AB252038 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 25 Jun 87

[Excerpt] A cabinet meeting took place yesterday under the chairmanship of Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'ahmed Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state.

The cabinet meeting approved a draft ordinance authorizing an amendment to the agreement signed between Mauritania and Spain on 25 March 1987. Under this agreement, Spain, this year, will provide cereals meant for sale, the proceeds of which will go to a joint fund for the financing of development and cooperation projects. It will also cover operational and management costs of the Food Security Commission [FSC] and the transportation of food aid to be distributed freely to people affected by the drought. Furthermore, the fund will help purchase equipment for the projects designed to encourage people to earn their living by working, ensure the marketing of the surplus agricultural production, and reinforce the FSC logistic capability.

The setting up of this joint fund, which is managed by a Mauritania-Spain ad hoc committee, falls within the framework of our country's food aid concerns, that is supplying our people with essential foodstuffs through food aid and produce from development projects.

/9599

CSO: 4500/116

MAURITANIA

NEAR EAST

MAURITANIA-GABON COOPERATION COMMISSION MEETS

AB191557 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 18 Jun 87

[Text] The third session of the Mauritania-Gabon permanent joint cooperation commission began in Nouakchott yesterday. The meeting was jointly chaired by our minister of foreign affairs and his Gabonese counterpart.

On the occasion, Commander Mohamed Lemine Ould N'diayane expressed satisfaction with the excellent relations between Nouakchott and Libreville. The present session, the minister emphasized, is taking place at a time when the effects of the world economic crisis are having serious repercussions on developing countries with the constant deterioration of trade terms, the drop in prices of raw materials, and the increase in debt-servicing to (?\$80) billion. In this regard, Cdr Mohamed Lamine Ould N'diayane expressed the hope that African countries, especially Gabon and Mauritania, would continue to strengthen and diversify their regulations.

For his part, Martin Bongo expressed similar views. He underlined the need to strengthen cooperation, especially in the field of trade. In this regard, the Gabonese minister of foreign affairs expressed satisfaction with the establishment of a (?private) fishing company in Gabon and the implementation of a project for the establishment of a Gabonese wood processing company in Mauritania.

Meanwhile, Martin Bongo was scheduled to visit Nouadhibou yesterday.

/9599

CSO: 4500/116

WESTERN SAHARA

NEAR EAST

POLISARIO SAID PLEASED TO RECEIVE UN DELEGATION

LD130222 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 12 Jun 87

[Text] The Saharan reaction to the announcement that the United Nations is sending a delegation to Western Sahara came quickly. The Polisario Front in fact favors such an initiative. This mission's aim is pursuing the UN-OAU joint good offices on the Saharan issue. The Polisario Front in fact stated it is ready to receive and cooperate with the UN delegation.

On this occasion, the Saharan official responsible for external relations, Ali Beiba Mahfoud, confirmed the Polisario Front's readiness to integrally implement--I quote--OAU Resolution 104 and UN Resolution 4161. These constitute the very basis of a just and definite solution of the Western Sahara issue. The Moroccan Government's refusal to negotiate with the Polisario Front, its persistence in the military escalation, as well as its building the sixth wall proves it to be the unique obstacle to the efforts of the OAU and the United Nations for reaching a just solution to the conflict, the Saharan official added.

Consequently, stressed Mr Ali Beiba, any approach should be preceded either by the signing of a political agreement by the two parties or by the official and solemn acceptance by Morocco of assigning the territory to the United Nations and to the OAU. The latter will take charge of it entirely in order to organize the referendum of the Saharan people's self-determination.

Yesterday, the UN secretary general said that he was confident about the outcome of negotiations. The aim of his contacts, stressed Mr Perez de Cuellar, will be to prepare to send a technical commission to Western Sahara which will be charged with an on-the-spot study of all problems that could be raised by organizing a referendum on self-determination. He also said that his hopes are raised by encouragement from the parties in question and also by Algeria and Mauritania, which follow with interest the efforts being made to settle the conflict.

/9599

CSO: 4500/117

WESTERN SAHARA

NEAR EAST

BRIEFS

STATEMENT REPORTS 'HUNDREDS' DETAINED--A Saharan Information Ministry statement confirms that hundreds of Saharan men, women, and children have recently been detained by the Moroccan occupation forces in the occupied areas in Western Sahara. This new repressive measure, the statement says, is yet another crime added to the long list of crimes committed by the Moroccan occupation forces against Saharan civilians. [Text] [Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 8 Jun 87] /9599

CSO: 4500/117

METAL WORKS TO BOOST PRODUCTION

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 7 Jun 87 p 1

[Article by Farouq]

[Text]

The Metal Works Department plans to produce this year 600 tons of metallic elements, showing an increase of 100 tons as compared to the last year. The department produced 500 tons of metal works, valued at 40 million Afghani last year, marking 105 per cent plan implementation and an increase of 30 per cent over the production in 1985.

The department won the second position and the Transferrable Honorary Banner of the work competitions sponsored last year by the Kabul city party committee among industrial institutions. 42 workers of the department were awarded medals of honesty as well as merit certificates.

Stating the above, the head of the department told KNT reporter that the department, functioning under the Ministry of Irrigation and

Water Resources, produces mainly metallic constructions such as diversion gates for dams and canals, metallic pipes in different sizes, hydrometrical bridges, siphons, reservoir tanks, water reservoir pools, shelves, tables, chairs, etc.

Last year the department prepared metallic frames of Gulbahar and Arghandab projects, KamAZ enterprises, Union of Peasants' Cooperatives; metallic equipment for Vocational School No. 3; diversion gates of Arghandab, Konarha and Kokcha projects; metallic pipes of Khaja Aiwan, and 2000 m-long metallic equipment for repairing establishments of Pulicharkhi.

Playing an important and valuable role in the growth of national economy, the department has 230 workers on its rolls. The collective of

the department initiated, last year, voluntary work ten times, thus earning 323,265 Afghani. With their initiative and economization of raw materials and energy, the workers have saved 221,125 Afghani for the department.

Technical courses, set up there in post revolution years, are conducted by experienced local and Soviet teachers. Last year, 56 trainees received certificates and are now working in different sections of the department. Also, 85 personnel of the department are now enrolled in the Vocational School No. 5 of the Prefabricated Housing Complex.

The staff of the department have pledged to fulfil this year's production plan and contribute their share to strengthening the national economy.

HERAT PEASANTS' COOPERATIVE HELPS STABILIZE PRICES

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 1 Jun 87 pp 1-2

[Article by Ibrahim]

[Text]

"The provincial council of the Union of Peasants' Cooperatives of Herat plans to supply foodstuffs, consumer goods and agricultural products, costing 300 million Afghanis, through its selling outlets in the current Afghan year," said Noor Ahmad Mulheq, the organization director of the council in an interview to a KNT reporter in Herat province.

He added: "In HS 1365, the council supplied and sold foodstuffs, agricultural products and consumer goods worth 250 million Afs. This showed the implementation of last year's plan by 100 per cent."

The council has now 54 cooperatives including handicrafts, carpentry, confectionery, silk weaving and consumer cooperatives.

"Due to the continuous attention and care paid by the Party and the Government, the cooperative movement is expanding day

by day in the city and other parts of the province. For instance, in HS 1365, 21 consumer cooperatives with 4,628 members and a capital of 3 million Afghanis and two handicraft cooperatives with 31 members and a capital of 1,490,000 Afghanis were established in the province," he added.

The provincial council has now over 15,000 members, of whom 1,551 are party members, 244 are DYOA members and 5940 others have been organized in tribal battalions who allow unarmed extremist groups to disturb the realization of the policy of national reconciliation in their localities.

Mulheq added that, of these members, 1473 were mobilized in the handicrafts and consumer cooperatives last year. During the period, the council also established six tree selling stores of agricultural and consumer products to meet the further needs of the people of Herat city and other districts of Adraskan, Kushk and Guzrah.

The council supplies primary goods needed by the people through its 54 cooperative stores and 11 free stores at prices which are 5-10 per cent cheaper than the market prices. This plays important role in ensuring the stability of price in the province.

To maintain prices in bazaar the council purchased 3,364 tons of surplus agricultural products from individual peasants and members of the agricultural cooperatives last year and sold them through its stores at prices cheaper than the bazaar prices.

"In addition, the council plays an active role in the eradication of illiteracy.

For example, last year the council established some 17 literacy courses with a strength of 560 students. These courses are voluntarily taught by literate members of the cooperatives.

To better organize the literacy process in the province, the council has provided 3000 note books, 2000 pencils, 50 blackboards and a cash amount of

80,000 Afghanis to the literacy department of the province" he said.

"The Union of Peasants' Cooperatives, as a social and economic organizations considers that the policy of national reconciliation is the only way for the cultural, social and economic growth of the homeland. It has accomplished this specific work to accelerate the realization of national accord. For instance it has established seven crash work groups in Kuhsan, Kushk, Enjil, Guzrah, Shindand and Zandajan districts. In addition to publicizing the humanitarian policy of national accord the groups also established some 11 consumer cooperatives with 2,566 members in the districts.

"Due to the urgent demand of the Commissions for National Reconciliation, foodstuffs and consumer goods, costing over 100 million Afghanis, have been transported by the council to the bordering districts of the province since the declaration of the policy.

"In order to meet the demand of the commissions, the council has also assisted as gratis aid a sum of 5,085,000 Afs to the Education Department of the province for the repair and rehabilitation of schools in the city and districts of Herat.

"To welcome the policy of national accord the council organized twelve voluntary works in building of new cooperative stores and saved two million Afs," he concluded.

SPOKESMAN FOR INDIA, PRC DENY BORDER BUILDUP

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 23 May 87 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 22.

IN the wake of "exaggerated" Western press reports on military build-up on the Sino-Indian border, India and China separately reaffirmed that they wanted to resolve their border dispute peacefully.

A spokesman of the external affairs ministry said here that India had no desire to have any tensions. He was asked to comment on reported diplomatic approaches by Washington to India and China dissuading them

from coming into conflict with each other.

He said India stood for peaceful resolution of the border dispute. It was precisely for this reason that India had been holding periodic consultations with China.

The spokesman would not comment on a question as to why was the U.S. taking such interest in the Sino-Indian relations at this juncture. The U.S. is understood to have expressed its concern to both India and China on the purported rising tension along the Sino-Indian border.

According to a report from Islamabad, the Chinese foreign minister during his brief stopover at Karachi told reporters that China wanted to resolve the border issue with India through peaceful means, negotiations and mutual trust.

Islamabad (PTI): China said today it wants to resolve the Sino-Indian border issue through peaceful means, negotiations and mutual accommodation.

The Chinese desire was expressed by the foreign minister, Mr Wu Xuequan, during his brief stopover at Karachi airport on his way to Nairobi yesterday.

He noted that the Indian leaders "have repeatedly stated their desire to solve the border question through negotiations."

Talking to Pakistani journalists, the Chinese minister described as exaggerated the media reports about skirmishes between the Indian and Chinese troops in the northeastern sector.

UNI adds: India and China will hold talks on bilateral trade, in Beijing from May 25 to May 29, an official release here today said.

The meeting is expected to review commercial and economic relations between the two countries in the context of the trade protocol for 1986. It will finalise the protocol for 1987-88 to diversify and expand bilateral trade and economic relations on a mutually beneficial basis.

/9274

CSO: 4600/1763

EDITORIAL CALLS FOR BALANCE IN SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS

Madras THE HINDU in English 19 May 87 p 8

[Editorial: "Improving Sino-Indian Relations"]

[Text]

THE TONE AND content of relations between India and China are not what they should be, and for this a situation of drift in the handling of the political relationship combined with a sharpening of stances or postures on the long-standing boundary question seem entirely responsible. The visit by the External Affairs Minister, Mr. N. D. Tiwari, to Beijing in June should provide a useful opportunity to reverse some of the negative trends which have been witnessed over the past year, and especially in recent months, in bilateral relations. Preserving and developing trouble free, sound and cooperative relations based on the principle of steady growth but cognisant of the pre-eminence of the political factor in the overall picture must be treated as a matter of priority for India's external relations. Quite obviously, it will take two to build such a relationship. Much actually depends on the will and determination in high places to move ahead realistically—without falling into the temptation of dodging the problem of long-held differences on the thousands of square kilometres of territory along the border separating the two big countries and without letting the dispute assume a fresh malignant life of its own. Unfortunately, there have been indications that old and even backward looking attitudes and thinking were at play in a situation permitting no soft options in a political sense—especially from an Indian point of view. The history of the relationship and of the boundary question, conventionally read and interpreted, would not appear to provide a great deal of hope and any number of plausible sounding arguments can be advanced—some of these are raised in Mr. Neville Maxwell's article, "Towards India's

Second China War?" published in the May 1987 issue of *South* magazine — to construct a gloomy, worst case scenario. It needs to be demonstrated that these forebodings and quasi-predictions are wrong because they are cynical and alarmist; they stem from negative or prejudiced thinking; and they do scant justice to the intelligence and sense of balance of the leadership and the people of both countries.

From an Indian standpoint, it has been a matter of considerable disappointment that the seven rounds of official level talks on the boundary question that began in 1981 ran into (in the words of this newspaper's Political Correspondent, G. K. Reddy) "a virtual deadlock over the very definition, not to mention application, of the working principles that should prevail in negotiating a comprehensive settlement", with no clear-cut concept surfacing on "what should be a fair and equitable basis for such an accord." The desirability of not letting history repeat itself cannot be overemphasised. In India, the advocates of bringing a sense of balance, realism and fresh, non-chauvinistic thinking into the handling of problematical relations with China have included over the years politicians, scholars and professionals of stature — and at times they put forward their ideas very much against the tide of political-emotional response. The farsighted statement by President S. Radhakrishnan in July 1965, pointing out that a friendly settlement with China and Pakistan "with honour and dignity" would be pre-eminently in the interests of internal development in India, belongs to another era, but seems very relevant today. The CPI(M) leader, Mr. E.M.S. Namboodiripad, has, following his recent conversation with the top

Chinese Communist Party leader, Mr. Deng Xiaoping, come out persuasively in favour of a fresh political initiative that does not rely on the unilateral principle. At the professional level, two former Foreign Secretaries, Mr. A. P. Venkateswaran, and Mr. M. K. Rasgotra, have done a public service in focussing on the need to break with the closed mind mode in Sino-Indian relations and to view the challenge and the prospect of improving relations positively. The reality that must be faced in the context of such forward-looking approaches is this: it would be futile to seek to conduct Sino-Indian boundary and political relations in the Eighties on a literal application of the November 14, 1962 resolution adopted by the Lok Sabha which commits India (and supposedly every Indian Government) to "driving the aggressor (China) from the sacred soil of India, however long and hard the struggle may be." Indian leaders can accept, with advantage to the nation, the broad principle behind the famous Zhou Enlai characterisation of the boundary question as a problem "left over by history"—without conceding in advance, even in principle, the Chinese claims to territory in either the eastern or the western sector. But what must be conceded at a high decision making level is the proposition that a settlement is achievable through a balance of give and take which ensures that neither side feels it has lost out too much. Contraposed to the Chinese preference for a package deal, or a comprehensive settlement, is India's opting for a "sector by sector" approach—which found reluctant acceptance by the other side in the process of border negotiations in 1985. But the approach of staking the maximum claim sector by sector — "harking back to the Simla Convention of 1914, sticking to the McMahon Line in the eastern sector, claiming Aksai Chin in the western sector on the basis of treaties based on custom, tradition and usage"—proved counterproductive. It tended to invite overreaching claims on the other side,

with the process approximating in 1986-87 a tit for tat encounter that has not taken forward any claim or sensible interest. Specifically, China has revived, or rather activated, after a considerable period its maximum claim on the eastern sector of the boundary (actually claiming here some 90,000 sq. km of territory). Unfortunately, in the context of drift this tit for tat game has involved tension-raising military movements, most seriously in the Sumdorong Chu Valley near the trijunction of India, China and Bhutan. In this connection, Mr. Rasgotra raises the following problem: "More recently, I asked a Chinese high official why did the Chinese come into Sumdorong Chu in force last year? He asked me in return: why did your forces go there in the first place the previous summer? They too had not been there before? Is that, indeed, the sequence in which events actually occurred? If it is, what harm would it do to admit an error and be done with it?" The former Foreign Secretary concludes: "That is the surest way of building confidence between nations which share a history of conflict." The precise answers to these questions are less important than the fact that they can—in the intellectual and political environment of today—be raised soberly, intelligently, in a constructive spirit that rules out of court any shrill suspicion that what is being advocated is a "sell-out". The time has come to break with the set thinking, the conservatism, the inhibitions and the prejudices of the past in Sino-Indian relations and to demonstrate the will and the bold statesmanship needed to come up with a framework for a settlement that refuses to get bogged down in advance in the technicalities and the procedural details of the "sector by sector" approach even while insisting that there must be a scientific basis for a resolution of the conflicting boundary claims. If a high level national decision is taken along these lines, Mr. Tiwari can sound the Chinese leaders out during his visit next month and fix a fresh kind of agenda for the next round of Sino-Indian talks.

/9274

CSO, 4600/1752

MINISTER SAYS U.S. ASSAULTS INDIAN INTEGRITY

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 19 May 87 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 18.—Mr K. K. Tiwari, Union Minister of State for Public Enterprises, today issued a hard-hitting statement declaring that "the final assault on India's integrity, sovereignty and its very survival has been launched by American Imperialism."

He referred to "the massive patriotic upsurge under the leadership of Mr Rajiv Gandhi against the coup exercises currently on in Delhi".

The attempt, he said was external forces' "most brazen intervention to prop up American collaborators like Mr V. P. Singh and subverters of the Indian republic in the name of constitutional properties and norms". The charge of "subversion" is obviously aimed at the President, Mr Zail Singh.

"Since this aggression is the logical conclusion of Mrs Kirkpatrick's blueprint for India's balkanization; Richard Nixon's annoyance at India's continued unity in his book, 'The Leaders' and Hardgrave's American Government-sponsored study of 1983 about India's future in case Mrs Gandhi was assassinated. It is infinitely more dangerous than the Pakistani and Chinese aggressions that this country has survived in the past", the statement alleged.

"This is for the first time in independent India that American

imperialism has found a quistling Mr V. P. Singh who is being actively aided and abetted by the Fascist fraternity of the Opposition and the supreme constitutional authority in the land to destroy the republic and tear India apart", Mr Tiwari said.

He said that Mr V. P. Singh's rejoinder "on being described as a contemporary version of Jaichand and Mir Jafar is an unabashed touting of his masters voices—namely, those of Mr Harshman and the blackmailers in the Swedish Radio who have used this classical disinformation strategy to spread disaffection among the people against the popularly elected leaders and the armed forces in numerous Third World countries finally to destabilize them".

The All-India Congress (I) Committee today took strong exception to Mr V. P. Singh, equating Jaichand and Mir Jafar with economic offenders, adds UNI. The AICC (I) said that this was tantamount to a distortion of history.

In a statement, the AICC(I) general secretary, Mrs Najma Heptullah, said that Jaichand and Mir Jafar were "political offenders" who had collaborated with foreign forces inimical to India.

/13046

CSO: 4600/1751

CPI-M CHIEF BACKS PRESIDENT IN DISPUTE WITH GANDHI

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 31 May 87 p 7

[Text]

TRIVANDRUM. May 30.

THE CPM general secretary, Mr E. M. S. Namboodiripad, has made a frontal attack on the Rajiv Gandhi government which, according to him, has been "flouting all norms of parliamentary democracy."

Mr Namboodiripad says while the President cannot dismiss a Prime Minister so long as the latter enjoys the majority support in Parliament, he has every right to insist on being informed about matters relating to the day-to-day administration of the government.

"By questioning the President's right to participate in the day-to-day administration within limitations, the Prime Minister has come out with a new version of Mrs Indira Gandhi's move towards autocracy. Without resisting this, democracy cannot be protected," states Mr Namboodiripad in an article published today in the Marxist daily, "Desabhimani".

He also accuses Mr Gandhi of questioning the powers of Parliament by "refusing to apprise it of

the facts" relating to the Fairfax probe, the controversial arms deals and such other matters.

According to the Marxist leader, no government at the Centre since independence has faced so many corruption charges as the Rajiv Gandhi regime. Under its rule, he alleges, communal harmony has been destroyed and law and order has broken down, the latest examples being the disturbances in Gujarat, Meerut and Delhi.

"The Rajiv government, which dismissed the Barnala government in Punjab in the name of failure to maintain law and order, has no reservations about allowing the Congress regimes in Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat to continue in office," Mr Namboodiripad says.

According to him, "all Prime Ministers from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to Mr Rajiv Gandhi have sought to ensure their dominance by joining hands with communal and other fissiparous elements." Only if such tactics are given up totally, can the country tackle effectively the problems created by imperialism, he says.

/9274

CSO: 4600/1774

JANATA LEADERS SCORE RAJIV ON PRESIDENTIAL ISSUE

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 18 May 87 p 5

[Text]

New Delhi, May 17 (UNI): The Janata Party today described the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's attack on the President at the Congress(I) rally here yesterday as "utter contempt for the basic norms of the Constitution."

A statement issued jointly by three party general secretaries—Mr Indubhai Patel, Mr S. Jaipal Reddy and Mr Yashwant Sinha—and Dr Bapu Kaldate (MP) said that after having refused to discuss anything relating to the President in Parliament on the plea that it will compromise the high office, it is entirely unbecoming and extremely irresponsible of the Prime Minister to take the matter to the streets.

"Ever since he became Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi has been out to denigrate the high office of President, conveniently forgetting that he himself was initially foisted upon the nation as Prime Minister by the same President. The President's only mistake is that he asserted his legitimate constitutional right to consultation and information...even this the Prime Minister finds intolerable."

The statement said that instead of settling his differences with the President within the framework of the Constitution,

the Prime Minister had raised this dispute in extra-constitutional forums "knowing fully well" that the President is not in a position to use similar platforms.

"It does not behove the Prime Minister to seek protection for the Constitution when he himself is hellbent on destroying it," the statement added.

Meanwhile, the BJP general secretary, Mr Krishanlal Sharma, in a statement described the Prime Minister's speech as "a clear confession by Mr Gandhi and his party that they have failed to provide political stability despite a three-fourth massive majority in Lok Sabha."

The Prime Minister, Mr Sharma said, "was behaving in such an authoritarian manner as if he was above Parliament, Constitution and even the country."

He has "crudely turned a deaf ear and blind eye" to the public demand for a thorough inquiry by a Parliamentary committee into the allegations of corruption in defence deals, Mr Sharma said.

The BJP leader added that it was not "high voltage propaganda but solid performance" which can restore credibility. "The Prime Minister cannot cover up his own lapses by raising the bogey of destabilisation."

/13046

CSO: 4600/1750

PRESIDENT SCORES COMMUNALISM IN POLITICS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 22 May 87 p 9

[Text]

MAY 21. — The President said in New Delhi on Thursday that casteism, religious fanaticism, mutual discord and hatred were the biggest stumbling blocks to our progress and national development. It was believed that people would forget discord and hatred after the partition, but that was not to be, he said.

Inaugurating a national seminar on "social awareness" organized under the auspices of the foundation for amity and national solidarity, at Vigyan Bhawan, he said that it was thought that after the partition people would make a new beginning. But even after 40 years of independence they have not forgotten the old discord and hatred which continued to manifest itself in occasional disturbances and blood-letting.

As is his wont, the President began his speech by reading out a few paragraphs from his prepared text and then deviated from it.

One of his extempore observations was that "Whatever is left of Hindustan after having been divided in three parts (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh) should be preserved as one entity. It is my

experience that the ruling dynasties and individuals in Government had caused more harm to the unity and integrity of the country than the ordinary people".

"So long as you are away from politics, you flourish. But the moment you join politics, your progress is thwarted. At the moment there is too much communalism and politics in our body politic". He went on to urge social workers to stay away from politics and concentrate on social work.

"I know that there is no scientific way of summoning back to life Jesus Christ, Mohammed, the Buddha, Nanak, Krishna and Rama and all the fakirs and pirs on a single platform. But if modern science could do it, we should ask them only one question: did you preach love and compassion or hatred and discord?" "Different and unauthorized interpretations of religious texts and traditions have created much confusion and conflict among the people".

In the written text, which was distributed earlier to the Press, but not entirely read out by the President, it was stated: "It is a

matter of great anxiety and sorrow that Indians should be threatened in their own homes and villages by fellow Indians and their business should be disrupted. No one should feel insecure in his own able or anywhere else in the country. For our national survival we have to ensure national integration". "To fight against injustice, inequality, and discrimination and to combat the sources of disunity and disruption, every social and cultural organization must join hands with one another and to check the tendencies leading to separatism and fragmentation."

"We have two essential tasks before us. One is to press forward with our family planning programme, because if we cannot stem the galloping rise in population, our efforts at progress will be minimized. We have to also accelerate our endeavours to expand employment opportunities, as the rising tide of unemployment, especially among the educated youths, will prove disastrous. It is incredible, though true, that over 60% of our people are still illiterate".

/9274

CSO: 4600/1761

PAPER REPORTS GANDHI 2 JUNE SPEECH IN GUJARAT

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 Jun 87 p 1

[Text]

Surendranagar, Gujarat, June 2 (PTI)—Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi today warned the people against efforts by certain super powers to encircle India and asserted "we will not succumb to any pressure howsoever strong it might be".

Addressing a convention of the Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee here, Mr Gandhi referred to recent events in the country's neighbourhood, particularly in Sri Lanka and Pakistan, and said an environment of insecurity was sought to be created around India.

The Prime Minister charged that in Sri Lanka, forces of Israel, Pakistan, South Africa and United Kingdom were present. He, however, did not elaborate the point further.

To add to this, there was also a dangerous presence of super powers in the Indian Ocean, he said.

In the Northwest, Mr Gandhi said Pakistan was being armed to its teeth. This was a cause of concern, he said. Mr Gandhi also expressed concern at the supply of advance warning airborne control system (AWACS) to Pakistan and nuclear programme of that country.

The building of pressure on India by super powers was not a new phenomenon, Mr Gandhi said pointing out that tremendous pressure was put on Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to change

India's policies. But India's first Prime Minister firmly refused to succumb to any pressures.

Mrs Indira Gandhi, particularly during the early years of her Prime Ministership was subjected to even stronger pressures—both internally and externally—but she withstood them all and adhered steadfastly to India's independent policy, Mr Gandhi added.

He would not also deviate from India's time-tested policies, come what may, the Prime Minister asserted.

Mr Gandhi said whilst pressure was being mounted by external forces to change policies, internally also certain forces were trying to weaken the country.

Efforts were on to weaken India by subverting the Constitution and several types of agitations were also being organised, Mr Gandhi said adding that Pandit Nehru and Mrs Gandhi had also faced such situations internally and had fought them successfully.

He too was determined not to bow to forces of destabilisation, the Prime Minister asserted.

Mr Gandhi devoted a major part of his speech stressing the need to root out the malice of corruption.

Mr Gandhi expressed his determination to fight corruption in every walk of life and declared "I stand by my

call at the Congress centenary session in Bombay in 1985 to liquidate power brokers and end corruption".

He said that if corruption charges were substantiated and proof given, nobody would be spared howsoever big and mighty he might be.

Mr Gandhi called on his partymen to ensure that corruption did not become a part of the present political system. This menace has to be eradicated from the body politic. The feeling that big money could lead to political success has to be erased once for all.

Mr Gandhi regretted that communal riots had taken place in UP, Delhi and Gujarat and called upon Congressmen to root out the scourge of communalism.

Mr Gandhi said he was sorry that the long overdue organisational elections could not be held as scheduled. A committee has been constituted to go into the matter.

The party poll process will begin after the Haryana Assembly elections, he said.

Mr Gandhi also spoke of how the Narmada Valley project, which was pending for the last 30 years, had been cleared by the Centre within three months.

"Now it was for Gujarat and other concerned States to implement the project expeditiously", he said.

/9274

CSO. 4600/1781

INDIAN MEDIA REPORT, COMMENT ON DOBRYNIN VISIT

Report on 21 May Talks

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 22 May 87 p 1

[Text]

India has conveyed to the Soviet Union its serious concern at the adverse impact the massive US military aid to Pakistan and Pakistan's own nuclear programme would have on the security environment of the entire South Asian region, chiefly of India.

The issue of US military and financial aid to Pakistan figured at the talks. Soviet Communist Party Central Committee secretary Anatoly Dobrinin had on Thursday with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi as well as Minister of State for External Affairs K Natwar Singh.

During his 45-minute meeting with Mr Gandhi, the visiting dignitary is understood to have reviewed issues of international and regional importance as well as bilateral Indo-Soviet relations.

Mr Dobrinin delivered to Mr Gandhi a very warm personal message from Mr Gorbachev, and discussed with Mr Gandhi the Prime Minister's forthcoming visit to Moscow early July for the inauguration of the Festival of India.

Later during the talks with Mr

Natwar Singh in the evening, Mr Dobrinin is learnt to have discussed such sensitive issues as US military aid to Pakistan, India-China relations, prospects of a political settlement in Afghanistan and South-East Asia, and the situation in Sri Lanka.

Mr Natwar Singh apprised Mr Dobrinin of his recent visit to the US, and the focus of his talks in Washington on the US military aid to Pakistan.

Mr Singh conveyed to Mr Dobrinin that during his visit it was made clear to Washington that its military aid to Pakistan would have an adverse impact on the security environment in the region, particularly in the context of Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme.

Mr Singh said India had also made it clear to the US that Pakistan's nuclear programme could not be viewed purely in bilateral or regional context, and was indeed a global issue.

On China, Mr Singh told Mr Dobrinin that India would like to develop good relations with that "great neighbour", and India hoped that all

problems would be sorted out peacefully.

On Afghanistan, the Indian side reiterated its position and called for peaceful resolution of the issue, and stressed that all outside interference "must cease". The national reconciliation process initiated by the Kabul regime was a step in the right direction, the Indian side felt.

Responding to Mr Natwar Singh's observations, Mr Dobrinin said that the Soviet Union had discussed troops withdrawal from Afghanistan with the Kabul regime, which had suggested a time-frame of 18 months. The Soviet Union felt that this time-frame was "reasonable", Mr Dobrinin said.

In the context of the present situation, Mr Dobrinin told the Indian side, the Soviet Union thought that a sudden Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan could cause bloodshed. This, the Soviet Union wanted to avoid.

During the 90-minute talks, the two sides also touched upon situation in the Indo-China region, and agreed that there has been some forward movement in the quest for finding a political solution to the Kampuchean issue.

22 May Activities

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 23 May 87 pp 1, 9

[Text]

MOSCOW, May 22. —The Soviet Union has assured India of providing her with the latest electronic computers, during intensive two-day discussions between the two countries which concluded here today, reports UNI.

A protocol was signed today late in the evening by the Secretary of Electronics, Mr K. P. P. Nambiar and the Soviet Minister for Computer Technology and Information. The Soviet assurance has however not been incorporated in the protocol.

The protocol itself is quite comprehensive and covers many areas of computer technology and electronics.

Our Special Representative from New Delhi adds: The Soviet Union has assured India of its continued cooperation in the field of defence supplies, production and technology. This was reaffirmed by the secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, Mr Anatoly F. Dobrynin, when he met the Defence Minister, Mr K. C. Pant, here this evening.

The prevailing security environment, both globally perspective and in the sub-continent, was reviewed during the hour-long meeting at which the Defence Secretary, Mr S. K. Bhatnagar, and other Indian and Soviet officials were present.

Mr Pant conveyed to the Soviet leader, India's concern about the USA's massive supply of arms to Pakistan and its impact on the security of the region. Particular mention was made of the transfer of AWACS and Pakistan's weapons oriented nuclear programme.

The political and security situation also figured in the talks Mr Dobrynin had earlier in the day with the Minister for Exter-

nal Affairs, Mr N. D. Tiwari. They recalled the convention against the use of nuclear arms mooted during Mr Mikhail Gorbachov's visit to India and discussed the specific measures that would have to be taken for such a convention to be successful.

PTI reports that the External Affairs Minister, Mr N. D. Tiwari tonight expressed concern the fact that some of the country's neighbours in the region did not subscribe to the "just and reasonable" approach of solving any bilateral problems through political dialogue and discussion.

"We have consistently endeavoured to promote an atmosphere of trustful good neighbourliness in our region", he said.

Mr Tiwari was speaking at a dinner hosted by him here in honour of Mr Anatoly Dobrynin.

Mr Tiwari said that Pakistan's relentless rearmament which was all too evident and its acquisition of sophisticated weapons and the imminent acquisition of AWACS posed a great threat to the country's security.

While various bilateral issues were reviewed, much attention was devoted to the action being taken to pursue the agreements concluded during the Gorbachov

visit, and both sides expressed satisfaction with the progress made.

It was decided that a system allowing for multi-entry visas for businessmen would be formulated. India is likely to import steel, coking coal and timber from the Soviet Union. Engineering goods will be included in the exports to that country.

While 27 areas have been identified for industrial production cooperation, it was felt that a greater number of areas could be examined. India is committed to expanding its trade with the Soviet Union, which was worth Rs 3,600 crores in 1986, two-and-a-half times by 1992. The discussions also took note of the preparations for the next meeting of the Indo-Soviet Joint Economic Commission in Moscow next month. Mr Tiwari, as co-chairman of the commission, will lead the Indian delegation.

The first Indo-Soviet joint venture a restaurant in Moscow to be run by India Tourism Development Corporation will begin operating from July 3. Its opening will coincide with the beginning of the Festival of India in the USSR.

Computer Group Session

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 25 May 87 p 1

[Text]

MOSCOW, May 24 (PTI).

INDIA will buy a fourth generation Soviet computer, EC-1066, to aid geophysical exploration by ONGC.

Apart from this, another major outcome of the fifth session of the Indo-Soviet working group on computer and electronics just concluded here is that the two countries will jointly produce personal computers, required in the Soviet Union.

Mr K. P. P. Nambiar, secretary, electronics department, who headed the Indian delegation, said the two countries would now co-operate in the development of new models of higher-level computer systems.

The EC-1066 is a large, state of the art mainframe computer.

Mr Eduard P. Maxakov, deputy chairman of the USSR state committee for computer systems and informatics, said in an interview that the Soviets

would export middle-size as well as mainframe computers to India.

As for personal computers, a joint Soviet-Indian venture would be considered, he said.

India now exports 'value added' personal computers but plans to master the technology so that they can be produced indigenously, according to Indian embassy sources.

The protocol signed by the two delegations on Friday also provides for a possible joint venture in computer peripherals to meet the requirements of the two countries as well as for export to third countries.

The working group identified a number of items which have the potential for exports from India to the Soviet Union. The Indian side gave the Soviets a list of components it was ready to buy.

The Soviets were also given a list of 400 Indian Electronics manufacturers compiled by the national informatics

centre of the department of electronics. The list will be updated every few months from the Centre's data bank.

Mr Nambiar said the perspectives for the period up to the year 2000 were indeed bright for co-operation between the two countries in the computronics area.

The guidelines now adopted will be converted into specific programmes by a joint specialists group for joint development of computer hardware and software, control instrumentation, and such materials as ceramic substrates and ferrites.

Some of these items could be produced in India or imported from the Soviet Union to make items required by the Soviet Union or had a potential for export to third countries.

26 May Talks, Reception

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 27 May 87 p 9

[Article by Subhash Kirpekar]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 26.

THE visiting secretary of the central committee of the Soviet Communist Party, Mr Anatoly Dobrynin, described the present Chinese leadership as more positive in its foreign policy formulation.

During his talks with top Congress functionaries, Mr Dobrynin ruled out any Chinese design to attack India.

He explained it had taken the Soviet Union nearly a decade to come close to attaining normalisation of relationships with China. He said Sino-Soviet borders were quiet and peaceful and there were no hostilities.

Significantly, Mr Dobrynin suggested that India should try and improve its relations with China.

He seemed to have given the impression that Pakistan had not yet attained nuclear capability. He was quick to add, however, that Pakistan had mastered the theoretical and technical know-how to make the bomb.

When his attention was drawn to the threat of destabilisation, Mr Dobrynin said the people of India should be taken into confidence and told who precisely these forces were so that the danger could be faced.

On Afghanistan, the Soviet leader said the process of reconciliation was in progress and Soviet troops would be withdrawn once there was no threat to the government in Kabul.

At today's reception hosted by the committee for national defence and unity, Mr Dobrynin emphasised the need for unity in India. "United you are strong; disunited you are weak and you may be defeated," he remarked.

The CPM was conspicuous by its absence at the reception held for Mr Dobrynin. The CPI was represented by Mr Rajeswara Rao. Among the Congress leaders present were Mr R. L. Bhatia and Mr Nawal Kishore Sharma, AICC general secretaries, and Mr Darbara Singh. Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad and Mr Harkishan Singh Surjeet of the CPM were invited by Mr Darbara Singh but did not turn up.

Mr Rajeswara Rao's impassioned plea to the Congress party to take the lead in uniting the left, democratic and secular forces was met by Mr Nawal Kishore Sharma who said that the call for such unity was given by his party through the recent Congress working committee resolution. Mr Sharma welcomed Mr Rao's call for unity and was happy that the left parties Mr Rao had spoken to in this regard had responded positively and favoured such unity.

Mr Rao asked why a country like India with 800-million population should be afraid of China, Pakistan or anyone else. But he said he was frightened by the spread of communalism. He regretted that a situation had come where a 60-year-old Hindu communal party was now saying that the constitution should be done away with and India declared a Hindu state. He demanded unity of secular and progressive forces to fight the poison of communalism.

Mr Dobrynin, who heard both Mr Rao and Mr Sharma, remarked that a big movement for unity appeared to be having its beginnings now. "But your politics is complicated," he confessed amidst laughter from the professors and intellectuals assembled.

He wondered why Soviet and Indian intellectuals could not sit across the table and discuss over two days mutual problems, be they political, military or social. This would enable better understanding.

Mr Darbara Singh, he remarked, had given Karl Marx's slogan to suit the Indian context: All Indians of India Unite. But the problems Mr Singh referred to like destabilisation and subversion were basically international in character.

Meeting With Communists

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 27 May 87 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 26.

WHILE the Soviet Union has unreservedly supported the position of the ruling Congress that currently India was besieged by a destabilisation threat, it is making no efforts to thrust its unqualified understanding on to the two Communist Parties in the country.

This became clear when Mr Anatoly Dobrynin, achorman of Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, Soviet general secretary on international affairs and a secretary of the central committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union

(CPSU), had separate meetings with the leadership of the CPI and the CPM today.

Mr Dobrynin, who is rounding off his week-long visit to the country at the invitation of the ruling party, told members of the CPI secretariat today: "What unites our two parties is peace and socialism and we fight for these according to our own respective conditions."

Stating this, a secretariat member said after the meeting that Mr Dobrynin made this remark when the CPI leadership had explained to him that while they did not scoff at the suggestion that imperialism was always

trying to sabotage governments in developing countries which did not support them completely, in India's case the internal policies of the government had invited destabilisation.

The Soviet leader is understood to have made inquiries of the CPI on the communal disturbances rocking the country. When Mr Dobrynin wanted to know why such happenings could not be eliminated altogether, the CPI leaders are reported to have said the government did not possess the political will to do so, as it appeased one or another communalist group to derive electoral advantage.

In his conversation with both the Communist Parties, the Soviet dignitary explained the changes taking place in his country and the stand taken by the CPSU on the international situation. At the end of its hour-long meeting with Mr Gorbachov's representative, the CPM said in a statement that its delegation which met Mr Dobrynin "appreciated the position

taken by the CPSU."

Both sides also expressed satisfaction over the "deep friendly relations between the two countries," the statement noted. The CPM Politburo was represented by Mr E. M. S. Namboodiripad, the party general secretary, Mr M. Basavapunniah and Mr H. S. Surjeet.

Departure Statement Noted

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 27 May 87 p 9

[Text]

New Delhi, May 27: The Soviet leader, Mr Anatoly Dobrynin, today wound up a week-long visit to India on a warm and friendly note, saying "Indo-Soviet relations have a great future."

In a statement issued before he left for Moscow, Mr Dobrynin, who is the secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, said: "We attach great importance to the talks we had and we

are satisfied with the results."

Mr Dobrynin said he was especially impressed by the friendly talks he had with the Prime Minister and president of the Indian National Congress, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. The Prime Minister hosted a private dinner for Mr Dobrynin last night where the two are understood to have discussed the security concerns in the subcontinent at some length.

Assessment of Mission

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 May 87 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

It would be patently wrong to read too much into Mr Dobrynin's visit to New Delhi. The acc Soviet diplomat timed his visit to make it coincide with great turbulence in India which has shaken Mr Rajiv Gandhi and his closest aides. Thus the very fact of his presence in the capital in this period can help create the impression that he came here in order to publicly demonstrate Soviet support for Mr Gandhi. But this impression is not borne out by what he is reported to have said at various forums. Since the meetings were off the record and closed to the press, we cannot vouch for the accuracy of the reports in question. Nor do we know what transpired at the meeting between the Prime Minister and him. Even so it does not appear either that Mr Dobrynin bought the destabilisation theory put out by Mr Gandhi and his aides through the Congress Working Committee resolution of April 18 or that he deviated in any way from what Mr Gorbachov said at the press conference which he addressed at the end of his recent visit to New Delhi. The Soviet leader, it may be recalled, did not endorse the popular Indian position that the country faced a serious threat to its security from Pakistan and China. Indeed, he made no secret of his desire to mend his own country's fences with both Islamabad and Beijing and he advised

India to do likewise. Going by the available reports, Mr Dobrynin made the additional points that Pakistan was still many months away from the bomb and that the Chinese deployments in Tibet were not such as to justify the fear of a major border conflict.

The references to China and Pakistan are relevant mainly because Mr Dobrynin would in all probability have not taken so relaxed a view of their likely moves towards India if he had bought the destabilisation theory. That he took the view he did would indicate that he did not accept the Congress resolution at its face value. The lukewarm response of the Soviet press must apparently reinforce this assessment. It should be noted that the *Pravda*, *Izvestia* and *New Times* have only carried reports on the upheaval in India. They have not commented editorially on it. Such "restraint" is rather unusual on Moscow's part in its relations with India. Perhaps Soviet policy makers would like to wait and watch before they settle on a firm policy towards Mr Gandhi and his government. There may be a convergence here in the Soviet stance and those of the CPM and the CPI. It is not possible for us to say that the Kremlin may be sharing the two CPs' reservations about the prime minister and his policies both domestic and foreign. But we shall not be too surprised if this turns out to be the case. This is not to suggest that India occupies, or is likely to occupy, a less important place in the Soviet scheme for the region. But the Kremlin may well regard that as a different issue not linked with the current threat to Mr Gandhi's own position. The difference may disappear in course of time. But it does not look as if it has disappeared yet.

Indian Radio Commentary

BK281403 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 28 May 87

[Commentary by Uma Shanker Phadnis, foreign affairs analyst]

[Text] The recently concluded week-long visit to India of Mr Anatoliy Dobrynin, secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, was highly significant for more than one reason. For one thing, it comes just about 6 months after the historic visit to New Delhi of the general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, and the forthcoming visit of the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, to Moscow to inaugurate the Festival of India. The purpose of Mr Dobrynin's visit, therefore, was to review the progress that had been achieved on the various proposals that had been agreed upon during Mr Gorbachev's visit to New Delhi and, based on this, to prepare the details of the agenda of the talks which Mr Gandhi will have when he visits Moscow in July. Under the circumstances, the talks with Mr Dobrynin had were comprehensive and were intended to provide both India and the Soviet Union with the background of their respective perceptions of the evolving world situation in general and also the situation obtaining in their respective security environments.

There were, then, intensive talks on bilateral India-Soviet relations in order to build further on the prevailing arrangements for cooperation in various fields. It is in this background that Mr Dobrynin not only had the formal round of talks with Mr Rajiv Gandhi but also an informal exchange of views when Mr Gandhi hosted a private lunch for him at his residence. Apart from meeting Mr Gandhi, Mr Dobrynin had extensive discussions with the external affairs minister, Mr Narayan Dutt Tiwari, who hosted a dinner in his honor. On some of the areas of Indian foreign policy, Mr Dobrynin had discussions with the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, and on defense cooperation with the defense minister, Mr K. C. Pant.

The broad framework of the talks which Mr Dobrynin had were indicated by Mr Tiwari in his banquet address. In this address, Mr Tiwari specifically singled out for mention the concern caused to India by the relentless pursuit by Pakistan to acquire the AWACS surveillance aircraft and other sophisticated weapons and the tensions in the region that follow in the wake of this pursuit by Pakistan. On this issue, Mr Dobrynin would have undoubtedly shared India's concern inasmuch as the Soviet Union itself had publicly unbraided Pakistan for this quest of AWACS. In fact, the Soviet Union had warned in no uncertain terms the consequences it would have on the Soviet-Pakistan relations, particularly in the context of the Afghan situation, where efforts are on for a negotiated settlement to enable the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

Apart from the poisoning of the security environment of the South Asian region by Pakistan, another troublesome issue that came up for exchange of views with Mr Tiwari related to the situation in Sri Lanka, where it was pointed out to Mr Dobrynin that external forces were trying to gain a foothold by meddling with the affairs there.

According to available information, Mr Natwar Singh also explained to Mr Dobrynin India's efforts to maintain stable relations with the United States despite the administration's imperviousness to India's concern over the supply of AWACS to Pakistan. Mr Natwar Singh also provided Mr Dobrynin with his assessment of the situation in Southeast Asia, which he had visited not so long ago. There was then the state of India's relations with China in the context of the border problem and India's approach to the negotiations for a settlement of the issues.

On bilateral relations, there was an agreement on several areas of cooperation in the framework of the India-Soviet Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation. For instance, a decision was taken in principle that the trade turnover of 36 billion rupees during last year should be increased by two and a half times by 1992. It is expected that concrete steps for this purpose would be worked out when Mr Tiwari visits Moscow next week. As it is, 27 areas have been identified. To facilitate the trade expansion to such magnitude, it was decided to formulate a system of multientry visas for businessmen. There was also a discussion on the setting up of India-Soviet joint ventures. One of these would be the opening of an Indian restaurant in Moscow, which is to be inaugurated during the visit of Mr Gandhi. Other proposals for joint ventures include soft drink plants and meat processing units. Last but not the least, cooperation in defense software, on which there were discussions between Mr Pant and

Mr Dobrynin. This assumes significance in the context of the Pakistani accumulation of arms, and Mr Dobrynin assured India of Soviet support to meet any possible threat on this score. Finally, as Mr Dobrynin was having discussions in New Delhi, a team of Indian experts was in Moscow working out the details of an India-Soviet pact on the construction of hydroelectric plants. hopefully, the draft of such a pact would be ready by the time Mr Tiwari visits Moscow.

All said thus, there can hardly be any doubt that Mr Dobrynin's visit has resulted in a great deal of spadework for Mr Gandhi's Moscow visit.

/9274

CSO; 4600/1782

TIWARI ADDRESSES FRIENDS OF SOVIET UNION CONVENTION

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 27 May 87 p 3

[Text]

BOMBAY, May 26.

MR N. D. Tiwari, the external affairs minister, declared today that the recent regional and international developments had enhanced the importance of the Indo-Soviet Treaty of 1971.

He, however, did not spell out what these developments were. He said the treaty was a historic landmark and a vital factor for ensuring peace and stability in Asia and the world.

Mr Tiwari was delivering the keynote address at the sixth national convention of the Friends of the Soviet Union (FSU) at the Nehru Centre auditorium, Worli, here today.

Among the visitors present were the Uzbek minister for higher education, Mr Mehboob Salakhuddinov, and the Uzbek deputy minister for culture, Mrs Nikhanova.

Mr Tiwari said there was an urgent need to halt the arms race and during the last two years, the Soviet Union had come forward with bold and innovative proposals for nuclear disarmament and had even made far-reaching suggestions for disarmament in Europe.

He hoped that these proposals would draw a favourable response to facilitate an agreement in some areas.

Currently, more than 80 Soviet-aided projects were in operations in India while the trade turnover had grown from just Rs. 1.3 crores in 1953 to Rs. 3,680 crores in 1986.

He said he would be shortly leading the Indian delegation to the 11th session of the joint Indo-Soviet commission on economic, scientific and technological co-operation.

Inaugurating the conference, the Maharashtra governor, Dr S. D.

Sharma, said after Independence Indo-Soviet friendship had been growing and had proved a powerful element in stemming the tide of racialism, neo-colonialism and neo-imperialism in the world. Friendship and co-operation were based on a granite bedrock of an identity of interests, mutual respect and commonality of perceptions in the context of world peace and progress culminating in the historic treaty.

He said the Indo-Soviet friendship had thus become an invaluable element in the cause of world peace with the populations of the two great countries, over 1,000 million strong, together representing one-fifth of the human population and able to exert an increasingly powerful moral influence on world consciousness.

The Maharashtra chief minister, Mr S. B. Chavan, said a new world order must be built to ensure economic justice and political security to all nations. An end to the arms race is an essential pre-requisite for the establishment of such an order.

Enormous resources wantonly spent on arms and armaments need to be channelised towards social and economic development. Only total disarmament can help release the enormous additional resources needed for combating backwardness and poverty prevailing in a major part of the world.

Mr Baliram Bhagat, president of the FSU, said India regarded the Soviet Union as a friend who had stood by it in adversity and times of trial. They had supported us on Kashmir and were the first to welcome to liberation of Goa in 1960 as also on other occasions. Therefore, it was natural that warm feelings grew in the hearts of the Indian people for the Soviet Union.

Mr Bhagat said a new generation of

leaders had emerged both in India and the Soviet Union and had injected a new vigour to Indo-Soviet ties. The societies both in India and the Soviet Union were in the process of reconstruction and this was imparting great dynamism to the co-operation between the two countries.

Mr K. R. Ganesh, FSU general secretary, said the vitality and dynamism of the movement for friendship had a great potential for two great peoples of the world despite efforts to deflect them from the path of co-operation.

He put up a resolution paying tributes to Mrs Indira Gandhi for her contribution to world peace and Indo-Soviet friendship to note. The conference adopted it unanimously.

Mr Salakhuddinov reiterated that the Indo-Soviet treaty was a major factor for stability in South Asia and had helped in protecting not only India's territorial integrity but her sovereignty. The objective in holding cultural festival in the two countries was intended to further promote mutual respect for their way of life.

The visiting minister presented an oil portrait of Mrs Gandhi to the FSU done by a Soviet worker-artist to the president, Mr Bhagat.

Mr B. A. Desai, chairman of the Bombay chapter of the FSU and general secretary of the reception committee, said Indo-Soviet friendship had a mission to accomplish to fight neo-colonialism and imperialism.

Messages wishing the convention a success were received from the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the vice-president, Mr R. Venkatraman, the Union defence minister, Mr K. C. Pant, and the Union home minister, Mr Bhuta Singh.

SOVIET YOUTH OFFICIAL DISCUSSES FESTIVAL PLANS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 May 87 p 3

[Text]

The Youth must inherit the traditions of Indo-Soviet friendship and realise the responsibility to carry it further, visiting vice-chairman of the committee of Youth Organisation of the USSR Farit Mukhametshin said in the Capital on Monday. He described the youths' participation as the 'largest ever youth exchange between the two countries.

Giving some details of the Festival of India in the Soviet Union and the Soviet festival in India, he said that the two events were part of the exchange programme for Indo-Soviet cooperation in 1987. They assumed special significance because the year also marked the 90th year of the great October Revolution and the 40th year of Indo-Soviet friendship.

Addressing newsmen, Mr Mukhametshin said that after the inauguration of the youth festival in Gorky Park in Moscow on 4 July, 1987, that is the next day after the inauguration of the main Festival of India in the USSR, the youth festival programme from India will spread over about 100 cities in the Soviet Union.

The Indian youth festival, he

pointed out, would be held in three major cities, Moscow, Leningrad and Tashkent. Programmes of the youth festival were so arranged, he said, as to provide maximum facilities of acquainting the Indian young delegates with the various aspects of Soviet life.

According to Mr Mukhametshin, widely representative 500 delegates from each side will be exchanged. As per the programme, signed between the Department of Youth and Sports (India) and the Committee of Youth Organisations of the USSR, on 24 November, 1986, a wide range of programmes had been finalised, he said. This will include among other things, photo exhibitions, seminars, symposia, discussions etc, he said. Photographs from the exhibitions will be placed in the special trains and all the cities the Indian delegates would be visiting, he added.

Special Trains: Special trains will have living compartments, film room, library restaurant serving Russian cuisine and demonstration compartments. According to him, 12 trains will

be pressed into service to take the delegates through 12 different routes. The two-week journey on each route will include one to two days halt in each city. Most of the travelling will be during night and during day the delegates would participate and witness different cultural events, he added.

The inauguration of the youth festival in Moscow would take place at Gorky Park, a photo exhibition that would be thrown open that day would also be taken subsequently to Leningrad and Tashkent, he said.

Likewise the Soviet Festival in India would be held at four centres, he said. Mr Mukhametshin said that 200 participants would come to New Delhi, while 100 each would go to Bombay, Bangalore and Calcutta.

Mr Abylgziziev Igor, executive secretary, Organising Committee for Festival of India in USSR and Festival of USSR in India, expressed hope that the two festivals would make the youths aware of the different culture of their counterparts in the other country, paving way for understanding and strengthening of the mutual ties, he said.

/9274

CSO: 4600/1754

SOVIETS TO EXPLORE FOR OIL IN WEST BENGAL

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 21 May 87 p 6

[Text]

THE Russians will soon begin intensive exploration for oil in on-shore basins in West Bengal, Colonel S. P. Wahi, chairman of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission, told reporters in Calcutta on Wednesday. The Russians will do the entire drilling, using their own men and resources. They will submit a detailed project report to the ONGC authorities within three months.

Col. Wahi said that the Russians had identified some areas in south Bengal for "integrated exploration". Though the Russians have already been involved in drilling in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, so far they have worked through contracts while in West Bengal Soviet technologists and equipment will be employed directly. The ownership of the basin will however remain with the ONGC. Talks were on with the Soviet authorities for more than a year.

The Russians were interested in West Bengal because they had been involved in oil exploration in the State for many years, Col. Wahi said. They have been involved in a vibrosis survey in Calcutta as well as drilling of deep and complicated mines at Bodra. That the Russians are taking an interest in West Bengal while the ONGC had so far failed to discover commercially exploitable oil in the State was perhaps explained by better data available with them, the chair-

man thought. They are in a position to compare with similar data available in other countries.

In the ONGC's estimate, there was 900 million tons of "prognosticated reserve" of oil in West Bengal, Col. Wahi said. But, the ONGC has not struck commercially exploitable oil so far because the Bengal basin offered unique geological difficulties. The ONGC is now looking for dissolved gas in the basins in Bodra.

There were huge reserves of gas in the Krishna-Godavari basin as well as in Tripura, the chairman said. The ONGC has suggested to the Centre that a national gas grid be laid for proper utilization of these reserves. Gas available in the Krishna-Godavari basin can be supplied in south India while the reserves in Tripura can be brought to West Bengal, Bihar and U.P. through pipelines. The possibility of laying a gas pipe line through Bangladesh will have to be negotiated. The ONGC may lay a network of pipelines while the customers may take their connexions from the network.

In the current year, the major thrust of the ONGC would be on

exploration, the chairman said. Drilling has started in Bengal and Andamans off-shore basins. Five wells will be drilled in the Bengal off-shore basin before assessment of the potential of the basin. A Japanese "jack-up rig" has been chartered by the ONGC for the purpose. Drilling started in Jammu on Monday and two more rigs will be set up in Himachal Pradesh. Drilling for the first off-shore well in Kerala will start soon at Cochin llig.

Activities of the ONGC in West Bengal have been affected because of difficulties in acquiring land. Col. Wahi said that 200 acres in Salt Lake promised to the ONGC last year for setting up a computer centre had not been made available. The results of the vibrosis survey conducted in Calcutta were still not available, he added.

In 1986-87, the ONGC produced about 28 million tons of crude oil, 500,000 tons more than the target. It earned an after-tax profit of nearly Rs 1,500 crores. The ONGC was negotiating for drilling projects in countries such as Vietnam and Tanzania on a profit-sharing basis, the chairman added.

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CSO: 4600/1758

GOA ATTAINS STATEHOOD, CABINET MEETS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 31 May 87 p 1

[Text]

PANAJI, May 30.

GOA today became the 25th state of the Indian Union with the new cabinet promising to take the administration to the "door-steps of the people."

The cabinet, which met soon after the statehood notification came into effect officially today, decided to create a new district and several sub-divisional centres to reach out to the people.

In a policy statement after the cabinet meeting, the chief minister, Mr Pratapsingh Rane, said that his government was determined to curb any violence or disruption to public life in the state. Ensuring security to every individual would be one of the priorities of the government.

Mr Rane and five other members of his cabinet were sworn in by the governor, Dr Gopal Singh, at Raj Bhavan in the morning. Dr Gopal Singh, who had been the lieutenant-governor of the Union territory, was sworn in as the first governor of the new state by the acting chief justice of the Bombay high court, Mr Justice S. K. Desai, earlier.

There were no official celebrations to mark the birth of the new state because of the national mourning as a mark of respect to the former Prime Minister, Mr Charan Singh, who died yesterday. The celebrations have been postponed till the first week of June when the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv

Gandhi, will fly down to Goa to preside over a special function.

Scientific planning and efficient implementation of plan programmes would be the hallmark of the new state, the chief minister told reporters here.

Briefing them about the policy statement approved by the cabinet, Mr Rane said that the present agricultural system characterised by a single major crop would be reorganised for multiple cropping with the maximum use of irrigation.

The existing solitary district would be divided into two, he said. The new North Goa district would have its headquarters in Panaji, while South Goa would have its offices in Marmagao.

Talking to reporters, the governor, Dr Gopal Singh, said that the primary task would be to ensure peace and harmony in the state. He said he would concentrate on social welfare.

With the official declaration of statehood, the two overland districts of Daman and Diu will be delinked from Goa after nearly five centuries of association with it.

Our staff reporter adds from Bombay: Dr S. D. Sharma today promulgated an ordinance to enable Bombay University to transfer the Centre for Post-graduate Instruction and Research (CPIR), Goa, to the University of Goa.

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CSO: 4600/1774

TAMIL MILITANT LEADER SPEAKS TO NEWSMEN IN MADRAS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 May 87 p 1

[Text]

MADRAS, May 17 (UPI): The Eelam Peoples' Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), a major Sri Lanka Tamil militant group, has split with a group led by its military commander, Mr Douglas Devananda, forging a united front with a splinter group of the Peoples' Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOT).

Announcing the formation of the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front (ENDLF) at a press conference here today, Mr Devananda and Mr Paranthan Rajan of PLOT said the new front would strive to bring about unity among the splintered Eelam liberation movements.

Meanwhile, the EPRLF secretary-general, Mr. K. Pathmanabha, announced the expulsion of Mr Devananda from the party for anti-party activities.

Mr Pathmanabha said in a statement that the decision to expel Mr Devananda was taken at a meeting of the EPRLF central committee last week. He said Mr Devananda had been systematically violating the policies of

EPRLF and undermining party unity.

Mr Devananda had been suspended from the EPRLF following the shooting incident involving EPRLF men at Choolaimed here in November in which one person was killed. He was arrested in connection with the incident and later released on bail.

Mr Devananda's exit is likely to seriously affect the People's Liberation Army, the military wing of the EPRLF. The PLA, which he headed, had been crippled in the Jaffna province by the LTTE and has reportedly lost its influence in the eastern region of the island.

The political secretary of the EPRLF said the split in the organisation had occurred over differences at the political levels over liberated zones in the Tamil areas.

Asked what the front's response would be if the LTTE chose to hold direct talks with the Sri Lanka government, he said: "We firmly believe that there can be no settlement of the problem without Indian mediation."

/13046

CSO: 4600/1749

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETS TO DISCUSS PLAN BUDGETING

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 21 May 87 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 20.

A FULL meeting of the planning commission under the chairmanship of the Prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, today discussed the serious resource crunch for the seventh plan and decided to have a closer scrutiny of those areas where action was needed to strengthen the fiscal base.

A detailed paper prepared by the planning commission, which formed the basis of the meeting called by the Prime Minister, identified these areas for action for keeping the budgetary deficit at a reasonable level from 1988-89 onwards. These areas relate to: improved tax compliance through rationalisation of tax structure and better administration, the role of subsidies and improved internal generation by the public sector.

It was decided that the various policy options should be clearly underlined in all the three problem areas, as they required hard political decisions.

An official release issued at the end of the two-hour meeting said it was "a part of the ongoing exercise to assess the progress of resource mobilisation in the country for financing the public sector outlay."

The meeting first reviewed the emerging issues in the financial sphere,

in particular the longer-term imbalance in the growth of revenues and non-plan revenue expenditures, the increasing burden of interest payments, and shortfalls in resource generation by public enterprises.

The planning commission paper referred to these imbalances and said that unless these were corrected, there would be serious difficulties in financing plans in a non-inflationary manner.

The commission noted that the government's entire tax revenue was spent on meeting the expenditure on defence, subsidies and interest payments. The plan as a result had to be financed through borrowings and deficit-financing.

As against the seventh plan estimate of Rs. 14,000 crores to be mobilised through deficit-financing in the five-year period, deficit-financing during the first three years of the plan will exceed Rs. 18,000 crores. This is on the assumption that the deficit during the current year would be contained within the budget estimate of Rs. 5,688 crores.

For funding the plan in a non-inflationary manner, the commission has suggested raising the tax ratio by more than two percentage points by the end of the seventh plan. At the same time, wherever feasible, fees charged for services should be adjusted for inflation and increased costs.

In the medium-term, the growth of non-plan expenditure in real terms

should not be allowed to exceed five per cent.

At the Central level, the expenditure on food and fertiliser subsidies should be brought down by increasing the issue price of foodgrains through the public distribution system and supply price of fertilisers to farmers. It was felt that there could be dual pricing of fertilisers for rich, middle and marginal farmers.

For raising tax revenue, the meeting felt that there should be detailed surveys to identify sections that have escaped the tax net so far and bring them under it. For instance, small-scale industries are the worst culprits in the matter of direct tax evasion and some ways should be found to ensure their tax compliance.

The pattern of financing of plan expenditure by states should be reconsidered. Different rates of sales tax by different states were affecting the states' resource generation. There should be rationalisation of sales tax rates to reduce differentials.

/9274

CSO: 4600/1757

ERADI COMMISSION REPORT ON RAVI-BEAS WATERS RELEASED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 21 May 87 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 20.

THE long-awaited Eradi Commission report on sharing of the Ravi-Beas waters between Punjab and Haryana released today turned out to be a political boon for the Congress, as it is expected to satisfy both the states.

The tribunal, after studying the techno-economic report on the availability of water, has concluded that there is 1.11 m.a.f. (million acre feet) of additional water to be shared between Haryana and Punjab. The shares of Punjab and Haryana have subsequently been raised by 0.78 m.a.f. and 0.33 m.a.f. respectively.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi expressed gratification when he told a group of farmers from Amritsar and Gurdaspur districts, who gathered at his residence today, that nobody should have any complaint about recommendations of the commission.

The report, released on the eve of the Haryana assembly elections, will still the opposition charge against the Centre of sell-out to the parochial demands of the Akalis through the Punjab accord. It will undoubtedly give an electoral advantage to the Congress.

On the other hand, the extremists of Punjab will not be able to use the recommendations as a political weapon against the Centre.

The tribunal has also recommended that construction of the Sutlej-Yamuna Link canal, which is designed to convey the Ravi-Beas waters to Haryana, should be completed expeditiously. In

the present situation, this recommendation would seem to be redundant, as the Centre was bound to take a decision on its own as a measure of reassurance to the Haryana voter that the water awarded to his state by the tribunal would soon be irrigating his fields.

The Prime Minister at the same time told the farmers that he hoped that the amount of waters allotted to Punjab by the tribunal would meet their full requirements.

The share of Rajasthan, Jammu, and Kashmir and Delhi would remain unchanged, according to the panel report handed over officially to the governments of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan today for their comments in the stipulated period of three months.

The tribunal has allocated 5 m.a.f. of water to Punjab and 3.83 m.a.f. to Haryana on the criteria of "equitable apportionment". This marks an increase of 0.78 m.a.f. for Punjab and 0.33 m.a.f. for Haryana over their earlier shares of 4.22 m.a.f. and 3.5 m.a.f., respectively, based on the 1981 inter-state agreement on sharing of the surplus Ravi-Beas waters.

The 1.11 m.a.f. increase in allocation of both the states has been possible because of identification of an equal quantity of additional utilisable water below the rim stations of the Ravi and Beas. These waters are available between Madhopur and Ravi Syphon and between Mandi plain and Ferozepur.

The tribunal has estimated actual utilisable additional water at 1.85 m.a.f. Of this, 1.11 m.a.f. has been distributed between Punjab and Haryana, leaving 0.74 m.a.f. "for allocation in the future."

Besides adjudication on sharing of

the surplus waters, the tribunal was required under Clause 9.1 of the Punjab accord to verify the actual use of Ravi-Beas waters by the concerned states. Taking the average of five-year cycle 1980-85, it has concluded that Punjab used 5,406 m.a.f. of water, against 1.62 m.a.f. by Haryana and 6,095 m.a.f. by Rajasthan.

The figure for Punjab excludes 0.198 m.a.f. "Non-permissive use out of Haryana's share," though it includes 0.352 m.a.f. of "permissive use" allowed by Rajasthan. The tribunal however, points out that these figure are actually below average because of poor availability of water during the five-year period concerned.

According to the 1981 inter-state agreement, the total surplus water available for allocation to different states was 17.1 m.a.f. The stipulated shares were: Punjab 4.22 m.a.f., Haryana 3.50 m.a.f., Rajasthan 8.60 m.a.f., Jammu and Kashmir 0.65 m.a.f. and Delhi 0.20 m.a.f.

The tribunal has held that share of Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir and Delhi would remain intact. The Delhi administration's demand for allocation of additional quantities has been found to be falling outside the scope of the tribunal's terms of reference.

The tribunal points out that total surplus Ravi-Beas water was estimated at 15.85 m.a.f. in 1955 agreement and 17.17 m.a.f. in the 1981 agreement. However, the report says: "After examining representations made before it the tribunal concluded that substantial waters are available below the rim stations of the Ravi and Beas." The availability of surplus waters, therefore, went up from 7.72 m.a.f. to 8.83 m.a.f.

GANDHI INAUGURATES CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE CELEBRATION

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 20 May 87 pp 1, 9

[Excerpt]

NEW DELHI, May 19.

THE Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, today told the captains of trade and industry that the transition from the era of controls to an open economy would have to be gradual.

Changes should not be brought about in a manner so as to upset the established industries which had come up in a closed environment, the Prime Minister said, while inaugurating the diamond jubilee celebrations of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) here.

The Prime Minister was at pains to explain that the government's policies of liberalisation meant no break with the past. The overall strategy of economic growth through a mixed economy with a strong emphasis on self-reliance remained.

The public sector was at commanding heights of the economy and would continue to remain so. While conceding that the public sector should be more dynamic and efficient, Mr Gandhi saw many virtues in the public sector.

The public sector went to remote and backward areas, its commitment to labour was much greater, and its functioning was hampered as it got involved in "many irrelevant issues" that came up in Parliament. Despite these handicaps, public sector units were giving the lead in many areas.

Mr Gandhi said that his view was that once a public sector unit established the lead in a particular area, it should be thrown open to private

sector, and the public sector should enter new areas.

Referring to the FICCI president, Mr R. P. Goenka's plea that the 10 per cent price preference in government purchases should be extended to the private sector also, Mr Gandhi said he would try to get it reduced over a period of time.

Emphasising the crucial role of private sector in the country's development, the Prime Minister said that too much of protection from both external and internal competition led to a situation of high cost, low productivity, no R and D, and stagnant technology.

It was essential that efficiency was built in both the private and public sectors. The private sector should be dynamic enough to function in a more open environment just as a public sector unit should be run as a privately-owned unit. This would require a change of ethos.

Mr Gandhi cautioned against too much of liberalisation. If new units were allowed to come up without limitations on scale of production, old units would find it difficult to survive. The government would not like to put so much of pressure that "the system collapses."

Similarly, with regard to changes in tax structure, he said, while it was true that lower taxes ultimately yielded more revenue. The problem was of the intervening period when the revenue fell immediately after the lowering of tax rates.

The Prime Minister said the problems of specific industries should be studied one by one and the tax structure should be so designed as to

promote their maximum growth. He said he had asked the industry ministry to ensure that there was enough interaction between the government and industry at different levels. He wanted an institutionalised forum for this interaction.

The Prime Minister assured that the government would do "everything that is required" to help the growth of trade and industry and said that he expected an equally strong response from both the private and public sectors.

He also called for a major thrust in exports from the large houses. Probably, the large houses were not interested in exports because they found the domestic market "cushy". In that case, the government would see to it that the domestic market was not so cushy. They should be ready to live with a reasonable level of protection.

"Import substitution should not be at any cost," Mr Gandhi said. It might be better to export more so as to import some items that the country required.

Mr Gandhi called upon the industry to put in more R and D efforts and absorb new technologies, cut down costs by inculcating a spirit of innovation and efficiency to build a new India capable of meeting new challenges. The stronger the economic base of the country, the greater will be its capacity to face political challenges, for, the key to an independent foreign policy was a strong and self-reliant economy, he said.

Mr Gandhi later presented the annual FICCI awards.

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CSO: 4600/1755

'OUTSIDE WORLD' SAID TO NOTE IMPORTANCE OF CPI-M

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 May 87 p 15

[Text]

CALCUTTA, May 17: Five CPM delegations comprising representatives from different states will be visiting a number of East European countries and China next month on goodwill missions.

The teams will include youth, women's, and journalists' delegations, according to information available here.

The visits are significant in that in the sphere of international communism the CPM is increasingly being looked upon as the more relevant of the two communist forces in the country.

It may be recalled in this connection that very recently, Mr E. M. S. Namboodiripad, CPM general secretary, was in Beijing where he held important discussions with the Chinese leaders on the sensitive issue of Sino-Indian relations. Though no leader of Mr Namboodiripad's stature will be in any to go abroad next month, it is evident that the party is being accorded the same degree of importance by both groups of the socialist world.

To the outside world the CPM's importance stems from two factors. In the first place it is the only opposition party to be in office in three Indian states. Also, its closer relations with the non-left opposition parties gives it greater importance than the CPI. Besides, countries like China have in recent years been displaying a less than partisan interest in Indian developments.

For the CPM, the current recognition from both Beijing and the Moscow-oriented socialist countries comes as a vindication of its own stand that it would judge Indian developments and also international issues on the basis of its own understanding without blindly towing the line of either of the two socialist giants.

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CSO: 4600/1760

CPI LEADER REPORTS CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 20 May 87 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 19.

THE CPI has demanded a complete change of course in the government's economic policies and policies governing labour.

Without such a radical shift, destabilisation, "which is no bogey invented by the Congress", cannot be prevented, said Mr C. Rajeswara Rao, the party's general secretary, today informing newsmen of the deliberations of the central executive committee of the party which met over the weekend to discuss the current political situation in the country.

The CPI "strongly feels that the struggle against imperialist intrigues to destabilise the country and the struggle against Mr Rajiv Gandhi's retrograde economic policies, his anti-people policies, and his style of functioning are all an integral part of the struggle against imperialism, and for social progress and democracy", the CEC resolution pointed out.

In line with the resolution, the party has decided to campaign during the week June 6-13 on an eight-point programme that includes "exposing" the game of imperialism and internal reaction" to undermine the country's foreign policy and destabilise its political system, demanding a full probe into alleged kickbacks in defence deals, the widening of the terms of the Fairfax inquiry to include the modus operandi of the transfer of black money abroad, plugging loopholes in the country's financial system to prevent the flow of black money abroad, reversing the policy of liberalisation and concessions to monopolists and multinationals, withdrawing anti-labour legislations and opening dialogue with trade unions to evolve steps to strengthen the

public sector, and the launching of a vigorous and uncompromising fight against communal forces.

PRESIDENT CRITICISED: Mr Rao said his party would not tolerate anyone attempting to undermine the system of parliamentary democracy. While criticising the Prime Minister's "style of functioning," the CPI leader said the President had "no business giving the impression that he could dismiss a government which has the majority." The President, under the Westminster system was only a figurehead and had to go by the advice of the council of ministers, he added.

While talking of the corruption scandal rocking the country, the CPI leader also called Fairfax "an American private sector intelligence company", and wondered how it could be hired by the government.

Mr Rajeswara Rao also said his party had no quarrel with the government's foreign policy.

"Destabilisation was no bogey," he noted, and differed with Mr R. K. Hegde and Mr N. T. Rama Rao on this.

In another context he said his party would have no truck with communal and pro-imperialist parties. In the latter category he placed those "who take any opportunity to attack the country's foreign policy."

The CPI general secretary said that the CEC had discussed some names as possible candidates for the presidency but declined to divulge them.

Mr Rao said his party would have no hesitation in backing any candidate who would uphold the country's Constitution in the specific sense of upholding parliamentary democracy, and also the foreign policy of anti-imperialism and non-alignment.

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CSO: 4600/1755

CITU PRESIDENT TELLS REPORTS OF RECENT PARLEY

Bombay. THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 30 May 87 p 3

[Text]

BOMBAY, May 29.

THE recent sixth conference of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions in Bombay discussed not only economic problems of workers but various other issues, including those of communalism, terrorism and secession.

CITU has been fighting divisive forces and is facing attacks from them. The day before the West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, arrived in Bombay for the conference, two police constables of his government were killed by Gorkhaland supporters in Darjeeling.

Also while the conference was on, a Punjab state committee member of the CITU, Mr Deepak Dhawan, was shot down at Sangha village in Amritsar district. He was the joint secretary of the state Dehati mazdoor sabha and a relentless fighter against secessionists.

The conference dipped its red banner in honour of Mr Dhawan and pledged to carry forward the struggle against divisive forces.

The Tripura chief minister, Mr Nripen Chakravarty, could not attend the conference because of the activities of the TNV rebels.

The veteran CPM leader, Mr B. T. Ranadive, 83, who has been re-elected CITU president for another four years, told this paper today that in Darjeeling 50 workers of the party had been killed by Gorkhaland supporters.

He said the CPM's secular stance and its fight against communal, divisive forces had paid good dividends. There had not been a single communal riot in West Bengal in the last 10 years during the Left Front rule while several parts of the country had been ravaged by riots.

The party's policies had also helped it win the recent assembly elections in West Bengal and Kerala where communal forces were pitted against the Left Front.

The CPM in West Bengal had always protected the minorities who suffered from capitalist as well as feudal exploitation.

Mr Ranadive said the CITU con-

ference decided that trade unions should not restrict themselves to wage demands but fight larger issues like unemployment and privatisation of the public sector.

It was time for unions to come out of the colonial hang-over of fighting for economism. Some of the issues that needed their attention included greater democracy within the trade union structure and more representation to women in unions. A special session was devoted to women workers' problems. Mrs Vimal Ranadive presented a detailed report on the condition of women workers.

Mr Ranadive said CITU will also fight growing chauvinism in giving jobs. The system, unable to provide jobs to all people, was encouraging chauvinism. In Madhya Pradesh, unofficial instructions had been given to employment exchanges only to register the sons of the soil.

It was decided at the conference to fight the Centre's new offensive against militant unions. The government was bringing in legislation which would restrict workers' right to strike and the right to choose their own union.

The conference viewed workers' participation in management schemes as a fake device meant to hoodwink the working class. It also stressed the need to join hands with the peasantry and agricultural workers.

As for neighbouring countries, it was pointed out that while we were committed to peacefully settle the border dispute with China, relations with other countries had deteriorated. It reiterated that the Tamil problem in Sri Lanka could be solved within the framework of the sovereignty and unity of that country and justice to the Tamil minority.

But the hawks in Sri Lanka wanted a military solution to the problem. CITU condemned the use of mercenaries by the Lankan authorities.

In his presidential speech, Mr Ranadive said the people of Pakistan were waging a heroic and determined struggle for restoration of democracy.

He also emphasised the threat posed by imperialist forces of destabilisation and said the present cases of corruption

at high levels reflected the crisis of the Parliamentary system of government.

Mr Ranadive attributed the drought in Maharashtra partly to the "robbery" of water by capitalist sugarcane farmers who also owned the so-called co-operative sugar factories resulting not only in monopolisation of capital but also underground water resources.

The conference also laid considerable emphasis on strengthening the peace movement which is weak in India, supporting the non-alignment movement, defeating imperialist forces and forging unity among trade unions.

Some advance towards trade union unity was made at the conference by the general secretary of the AITUC, Mr A. B. Bardhan. He said a joint forum including even the INTUC should be set up on issues like peace and disarmament and national integration.

The conference was one of the largest and most disciplined held in Bombay. Mr Ranadive, who has been president of CITU since its formation after breaking away from the "collaborationist" AITUC, showed no signs of age throughout the deliberations. He conducted the proceedings all through the five days without break.

Thousands of adivasis, agricultural workers, students, industrial workers and white collar workers marched to the venue of the rally, Shivaji Park, carrying red flags.

A number of foreign delegates attended the conference. Among them, the Chinese delegates said the slogan "Hindi Chini Bhai Bhai" deeply expressed the aspirations of the people of the two countries.

Unlike in former times, the delegates from China and the Soviet Union mingled freely and went out sightseeing together.

Messages were also received from several trade unions from other countries. The general secretary of the Ceylon Federation of Labour, Mr Batty Weerakoon, said the Sri Lankan workers held a May Day rally despite a ban by the government. But the meeting was attacked by the police. The federation president, Dr Colvin R. da Silva, was injured.

REVOLT AGAINST GHEISHING REPORTED BREWING IN GNLF

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 1 Jun 87 p 9

[Text]

CALCUTTA, May 31.

A REVOLT appears to be brewing in the Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) against Mr Subhas Gheishing, over the alleged amassing of wealth by the GNLF chief.

According to sources within the GNLF, Mr Gheishing has already purchased a house in Darjeeling, reportedly at a cost of Rs. 7 lakhs.

Besides, the jeep which Mr Ghuramani Kharga, leader of the youth wing of the GNLF and Mr Gheishing's closest associate, was driving when he was arrested in Darjeeling on Thursday was bought by Mr Gheishing during his last visit to the capital.

His one-time close associate, Mr Lakpa Tshering Dong, has gone on record in a Bengali daily published from here that Mr Gheishing's personal property was valued at over Rs. 1 crore.

In the course of the interview Mr Dong also made it clear that many in the GNLF felt that Mr Gheishing was actually trying to wriggle out and issued the warning: "We will not allow him to escape. In any case, where will he go? If he goes to Nepal, the communists there will kill him. Neither is Sikkim safe for him."

According to indications available here, Mr Gheishing's detractors are not convinced that the Union government will call him to Delhi for talks in the first week of June. Consequently, they are also questioning the propriety of raising funds (Rs. 10 per resident) for financing the trip and are asking: "How long will be people be forced to finance these pointless trips which actually turn out to be an outing for shopping for Mr Gheishing and his companions?"

It is evident that the more militant section within the GNLF is getting restless with Mr Gheishing's attempts at a negotiated settlement. According to these people, Mr Gheishing is actually trying to buy time to finalise his preparations for quitting the Darjeeling scene. A showdown within the GNLF appears imminent as also a total crackdown by the authorities on the organisation as a whole.

PTI adds:

The GNLF president, Mr Subhas Gheishing, today claimed that the Union home minister, Mr Buta Singh, had assured him that he would discuss with the West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, the arrest of his chief body guard, Mr Churamoni Kharga.

Meanwhile representatives of two different wings of the GNLF today met the West Bengal governor, Prof Nurul Hasan, here and demanded the unconditional release of Mr Churamoni Kharga, chief of the Gorkha National Youth Front.

They alleged that the police had seriously beaten up Mr Kharga and demanded adequate medical treatment for him.

In another development the Gorkha National Students Front has called an indefinite student strike in Kalimpong from tomorrow in protest against the arrest of a student leader at Siliguri.

REPORTER WRITES OF SIKKIM'S 'YEARNING' FOR ATTENTION

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 30 May 87 p 9

[Text]

GANGTOK, May 29.

THE people of this small sub-Himalayan state are still yearning for a proper place in the Indian polity, or so in what their leaders would like one to believe. Twelve years after its merger in the Indian union, some basic issues are yet to be sorted out. This, according to them, is hampering the state's integration in the nation.

This is the psychology that is shaping the politics of the state and the chief minister, Mr Nar Bahadur Bhandari, who has proved that there is none who understands his people better, has been formulating his demands that would appear to arise from their injured feeling.

In order to drive home his point, Mr Bhandari, who obviously is a seasoned politician, throws up his hands in exasperation, exclaiming, "The way the Central leaders are behaving would only seem to betray a feeling among them that the merger was a mistake. Is this what they really feel?"

The issues arising out of the merger that are yet to be solved are a settlement about the property and estates held by the former Chogyal, granting of citizenship to all the people residing in Sikkim, reservation of seats for different ethnic groups in the state assembly and acceptance of Nepalese as one of the national languages. Only, by meeting these demands satisfactorily, according to Sikkimese leaders, will conditions be created for the moun-

tain-locked state to join the national mainstream.

NO FACILITIES

Why have these basic issues not been solved yet? Mr Bhandari has no doubt that Central government's neglect is the root cause of Sikkim remaining for 12 long years in a state of suspension between integration and non-integration. One evidence of it is that not a single Central leader has visited the state in the last two years. It has greatly injured the feelings of Sikkimese.

The state is not served by even the basic facilities. Proper communication links can bring the state closer to the rest of the country. But there is yet no telex service connecting Gangtok with Delhi. Outside a five kilometer range from the capital town, the rest of the state has to be satisfied with telecasts from Dhaka on the TV. There is an argument about constructing an airstrip near Gangtok. A costly helicopter service is serving as a substitute.

One result of the Central leaders' neglect of Sikkim is that the affairs of the state are being handled entirely by the bureaucrats in north block, according to the chief minister. In the absence of any political direction, the decisions are being taken on the basis of what is available in the files in the home ministry, prepared mostly in the pre-independence and pre-merger days. The attitudes and bases of the unchanging bureaucracy are being shaped accordingly. How can Sikkim expect any justice from the Centre, asks Mr Bhandari. "We are being ruled by a deputy

secretary in the home ministry", he says with a gesture of helplessness.

To give one example, Mr Bhandari asks why a Central team is coming to Gangtok after 12 years to try and settle the issues connected with palace property and estates when this should have been tackled immediately after merger?

STATELESS PEOPLE

Almost one-third of the state is under the palace and the absence of any settlement is only hampering the work of development and land utilisation.

As far as the citizenship issue is concerned, Mr Bhandari points out that all the people residing in Goa and Pondicherry were granted citizenship immediately after these territories were integrated in the Indian union. Why was the issue kept open in the case of Sikkim? Is it due to some old notings made in some home ministry files that was delaying a solution?

The situation in fact can become explosive with the passage of time if a solution is not found. Two years ago, the figure of "stateless" persons in Sikkim was given as 30,000. The latest figure is 54,000. The complications that can arise by keeping the issue open can well be imagined.

The chief minister says that the attitude of the Centre only betrays a lurking suspicion about the people of Sikkim which does not help the integration process — and this has been further complicated by both the Centre and the West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, accusing him of helping the Gorkhaland movement in neighbouring Darjeeling.

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CSO: 4600/1771

OPTIONS IN RESPONSE TO PAKISTAN AWACS PURCHASE NOTED

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 21 May 87 p 5

[Text]

New Delhi, May 20 (UNI): With the lease of American airborne warning aircraft to Pakistan seriously under consideration, India is thinking of possible responses.

The first option is to buy the airborne warning and control system from the Soviet Union.

The IL-76 aircraft converted into this role can be an alternative. However, this aircraft has problems in overland discrimination of low flying targets. But if the Soviets have computers capable of building and maintaining space stations in earth orbit, they have computers capable for this job.

There is no intrinsic reason why a modified Soviet system should not work adequately for India, even if it is less sophisticated than the American systems.

The second option is that India could go in for the American Awacs, which, according to indications, are available.

As a third option India can utilise the mini-Awacs developed by the British. Using a light twin-engine air frame and an early warning radar at a frac-

tion of the cost of a real Awacs, we can get a substantial capability.

Fourth, we can use a combination of the newer ground radars, which have a long range against low flying aircraft and are available from the US, Britain, and presumably western Europe. The US has itself cut back on its Awacs programme because the new radars are more cost effective than airborne systems.

On a tactical level, there are many ways of countering Pakistan's acquiring the Awacs. The use of a long range surface-to-air missile, like Sam-5 to force it well back from the border will limit Pakistani Awacs' reach into India. Electronic solutions include ground jammers, which do not suffer from the problems of size and power inevitably encountered in airborne systems.

Awacs can be made into a target itself, with India using a long range interceptor aircraft with long range missiles and a true look-down, shoot-down capability.

Awacs can be swamped with massed air attacks. All that

Awacs does is to warn of low-flying intruders and act as a battle controller. But, if India decides to send 32 or 64 or even more aircraft after the Awacs, even though the attacker will suffer more heavily than the defender, the Awacs cannot operate, or will be shot down.

The Awacs can be maintained only at one or two bases because of their complex and expensive support equipment. These bases can be closed by night strikes, against which the Pakistani Air Force has very little defence.

Another possibility is forcing Pakistan to keep its Awacs up till the electronic sub-systems, which require very heavy maintenance, start to degrade, and then attack. To adequately protect Pakistan, 10 E-2 type aircraft are required. Since only three or four will eventually come in, depending on finances, this strategy can be made to work.

A last possibility is to change our air tactics totally. What Awacs does is to rule out the possibility of surprise penetrations, which both sides rely on heavily.

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CSO: 4600/1759

BOFORS OFFICIAL SAYS DELIVERIES TO BE ON SCHEDULE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 20 May 87 p 1

[Article by S. Venkat Narayan]

[Text]

KARLSKOGA (Sweden),
May 19.

BOFORS does not expect the controversy about the alleged pay-offs to Indian middlemen to affect the delivery schedule of 155-mm guns, according to Mr Bertil Bredin, the firm's vice-president.

Production of the guns is in full swing at the sprawling Bofors factory here. In fact, several scores of guns had already been shipped to India during the past six months. On a visit to the factory, this correspondent found the next batch of guns being readied for despatch to Bombay and Cochin.

Conversation with several executives of the company showed that the firm was upset that rumours of alleged payments to Indian middlemen had overshadowed the fact that Bofors had procured the contract purely on the basis of quality.

Mr Bredin told this correspondent, "we have done nothing that's illegal."

Asked if Bofors could lose the contract in case the ongoing investigation into the deal confirmed the Swedish Radio's allegations, he shrugged his shoulders and refused to comment.

The contract, signed in March, 1986, in New Delhi, was worth a whopping Rs. 1,705 crores, the biggest export order any Swedish firm had procured in its history.

It stipulated the supply of about 1,500 guns (155-mm), supposed to be the best in the world. Four-hundred of

them would be manufactured in this country and exported to India in 51 months. The rest would be made in Indian ordnance factories after fresh agreements were signed for the purpose.

Two teams of Indian training personnel had already spent several weeks at the factory training school near here to learn how to work the sophisticated guns. The third team would be here shortly.

Mr Bredin, who had visited India in connection with the deal, said the Indian ordnance factories were well-equipped to handle the production of the Field Howitzer.

He added that the Indian government would have to invest considerable sums of money to produce certain components not available in the country. Bofors would transfer the required technology and send experts to help the Indians make the guns. Bofors-made guns of several types were in use in 75 countries, including India.

India was the third country to acquire the Bofors' computer-guided guns. Sweden and Nigeria were the other two.

The decision to go in for this gun was taken after nearly a decade of close scrutiny of similar equipment manufactured by ten companies around the world. Nearly 900 of the Bofors' 6,000 employees were engaged in making the guns meant for India.

The contract required the same firm to supply the ammunition too. The ammunition was being manufactured in a large underground complex.

ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF SPEAKS AT DEFENSE ACADEMY

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 31 May 87 p 5

[Text]

Pune, May 30 (PTI) — Chief of Army Staff, General K Sundarji, today declared that there was no question of repetition of the 1962 debacle, in the event of another aggression by China.

It would not be possible for China now to make any headway into the Indian territory, he told newsmen after reviewing the "passing out" parade at the National Defence Academy at Khadakwasala, near here.

Replying to a question General Sundarji said "there is no tension on the Indo-China border".

Referring to press reports in this regard, the Army Chief similingly said "the speculations in the press are wide off the mark".

On the Chinese accusations of border violations, General Sundarji said "it may be that their perception differs from that of ours. There has been no intrusion or air violation from our side. We are only defending ourselves".

On Pakistan, he said India was prepared to meet any eventuality. "Pakistan has played its cards exceedingly well to achieve parity in deployable forces. But there is no cause for major worry", he said.

General Sundarji averred that "we have rich resources and the fundamental ingredients of a power status in the world".

"Just when our research and development start bearing fruit, you come across pressures and disinformation to degrade and denigrate our capability",

he added.

The Army Chief who reviewed the smartly turned out parade on the sprawling NDA campus declared "this will not succeed" and exhorted the cadets to prepare themselves for "challenging and difficult times ahead".

Battalion cadet Captain Tarun Sobti was awarded the President's Gold Medal at the hands of the Army Chief.

Warns of designs

The Army Chief decried the campaign of "disinformation" inspired by the forces "within and outside" to "degrade and denigrate" the defence capability of the Indian Army.

"There are interests world-wide which are always inimical to new centres of independent decision-making arising anywhere in the world", General Sundarji warned.

The Army Chief told the cadets that they would be joining the armed forces at a "critical juncture" when the country was at a "take off" stage to achieve "economical and technological independence".

"As we head towards power status, certainly in the region if not in the world, we will come under enormous pressure", General Sundarji observed.

Referring to the "harsh criticism" in respect of Main Battle Tank (MBT) "Arjun" and Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), which are being indigenously

developed by the Indian Army, he asserted that "this kind of treatment" was aimed at "preventing us from attaining self-reliance" and keeping the country dependent on outside powers for major battle weapons.

'Planted stories'

The Army Chief referred to the scandals about the defence purchases and said "seller" countries always had an "inbuilt interest" in major armament projects.

General Sundarji regretted that "planted stories" had been published on the country's indigenous defence products.

"These stories create doubts in the minds of the general public and also the users of these products", he added.

General Sundarji said India was now engaged in developing third generation missiles. "We have a wide variety of anti-tank guided missile", he said.

He said the armed forces' research and development had made the country's missile programme "a success story".

On the progress in the development of Main Battle Tank, he said the prototypes of the design would be subjected to troop-trials before starting quality production.

The General said he could visualise only a "marginal increase" in the strength of the Army in the years to come. "What is more important is the balancing and modernisation of the defence forces", he stated.

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CSO: 4600/1775

PAPERS REPORT DEVELOPMENTS IN COMBAT VEHICLE MANUFACTURE

Indigenization Process Noted

Madras THE HINDU in English 20 May 87 p 4

[Text]

MADRAS, May 19.

Two combat vehicles, equipped with sophisticated weapon systems, will be manufactured by the Department of Defence Production under licence (covering technical knowhow and assistance in selected areas of technology, together with buy-back arrangements for systems, assemblies and spares).

The Department of Defence Production has scheduled for production a Main Battle Tank (MBT) and infantry combat vehicles.

The two projects will be open to the private sector participation. A number of systems and sub-systems have been identified for indigenous development.

The Defence Department will develop reliable vendors for specialised parts (of the 40,000 components) to meet qualitative requirements, according to the Confederation of Engineering Industry (CEI).

Good response: One of the combat vehicles has been stripped at the Defence Ordnance Depot in Dehu Road, near Pune and entrepreneurs have been invited to identify systems and assemblies which can be indigenised. The response had been encouraging. Pre-qualification tenders have been issued and prospective manufacturers shortlisted for issue of tender on a limited basis.

CEI members have been advised to adopt a

systems-oriented approach, based on design and technological considerations.

Certain fast-moving parts have been developed by the Defence Department using "reverse engineering" on imported samples, since the system adopted by the Soviet authorities is proprietary in nature. In farming out orders to indigenous manufacture, the CEI has been asked to upgrade manufacturing technology in consultation with Soviet experts.

The production schedule for the two types of vehicles have been compressed to ensure availability of all equipment at the right time. The Defence Production Department has acquired capabilities in adjusting to Soviet designs of combat vehicles over the years through evaluation under stringent operational requirements.

Told to ensure quality: The CEI has been asked to ensure that integrity of each part for the ultimate quality of performance and reliability and to avoid inadequate comprehension of design and technological requirements.

In this context, the CEI (Southern Region) has organised a seminar on May 22 on "Systems approach to development of defence equipment," to bring together defence officials and industrialists to discuss the approach and to tackle problems of indigenisation. Defence equipment will be on display during the seminar, to be held at the Adyar Park Hotel here.

Challenge to Defense Industry

Madras THE HINDU in English 25 May 87 p 6

[Text]

MADRAS, May 24.

The indigenous manufacture of Soviet T-72 tanks, considered to be among the best in the world, and the Armoured Fighting Vehicles will provide Indian industry with a tremendous opportunity and a great challenge. Defence production units will have access to state-of-the-art

technology, some of which is being transferred out of the Soviet bloc for the first time. The potential spin-offs from this technology transfer are enormous.

But defence sources indicate that Indian industry will find it difficult to assimilate this technology. Given the sophistication of the weapon systems, even the slightest deviation from standards will result in faulty performance. In spite of the mass of technical documentation the Soviets are willing to provide, the services of Soviet specialists will still be required to guide Indian manufacturers. But the Soviet Union has made it clear that specialists will only be deputed for short periods. Defence sources say the specialists deputed are often unable to provide detailed answers to specific questions.

Problem of compatibility: Another problem is that no small scale manufacture is now in a position to manufacture composite sub-systems of the T-72 and the Armoured Fighting Vehicles. Once the manufacture of sub-systems is farmed out to different producers, the problem of compatibility between systems is likely to become serious, the sources say.

Therefore, the Directorate of Production and Inspection (Electronics) Delhi, has suggested an eight-point remedy to overcome the problems. These are: training of staff on documentation, standardisation and codification system of the suppliers, procurement of samples of sub-assembly and pattern equipment. There should be freedom to use available technology and materials, etc.

Product improvement should be permitted and this will result in a modernised version with state-of-the-art technology. There should be re-distribution of responsibility based on sub-system concept and Indianisation of components, materials and test equipment.

It is imperative that Soviet experts should be available for across-the-table discussions and the supplier should give dedicated test facility.

If these steps are taken, indigenous production of complex weapons can be achieved within a given time frame with minimum product support, Defence sources said.

These were discussed at a seminar organised by the Confederation of Engineering Industry and addressed by senior officials of the Defence Production Department here on Friday.

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CSO: 4600/1756

BRIEFS

CHARAN SINGH DEATH--New Delhi, 29 May--The veteran peasant leader and former Prime Minister, Mr Charan Singh, today died after a protracted illness in the early hours of the morning. Mr Charan Singh, who could never fully recover from the paralytic stroke he suffered in 1985, died of cardiac arrest at 2.25 a.m. at his Taghlaq Road residence. He was 85. A four-day state mourning has been announced for the man who had emerged as the tallest peasant leader in the Post-independent India and held the office of the Prime Minister for a brief period after the Janata government fell in July, 1979. [Excerpt] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 30 May 87 p 1] /9274

CHARAN SINGH REPLACEMENT--New Delhi, 1 Jun--Mr Ajit Singh was today installed as president of the Lok Dal (A) replacing his last father, Mr Charan Singh. A resolution to this effect was passed unanimously by the party's national executive at its meeting held here today. Sixteen of the 28 members of the national executive and eleven special invitees attended the meeting. Mr Ajit Singh was however not present at the meeting. The party passed a resolution urging the government to declare Mr Charan Singh's resident at 12, Tughlak Road as a national memorial. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2 Jun 87 p 9] /9274

INDIAN-BUILT DRILLSHIP--Bombay, 20 May--The first Indian-built drillship joined the fleet of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission yesterday. "Sagar Bhushan," built by the state-owned Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., Visakhapatnam, at a cost of about Rs 100 crores was handed over to the minister for petroleum and natural gas, Mr Brahma Dutt, by the minister for surface transport, Mr Rajesh Pilot as a function. The complex and sophisticated drillship was built in technical collaboration with Hitachi Zosen Corporation of Japan in a little under three years. Sagar Bhushan will be used for exploratory drilling upto a depth of 6000 metres, in water depths upto 300 metres. The vessel is designed to operate under a windspeed of 45 knots and waves as high as 4.25 metres. The stability of the vessel is controlled by an on-board computer system. The fully air-conditioned vessel has a helipad and accommodation facilities for 108 persons. About 28 major systems make up the complex and sophisticated operations of the ship, including a heave compensation system to absorb roll, a mooring system to stay within close limits of a pre-determined position, acoustic positioning system and underwater television systems. [Excerpt] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 30 May 87 p 5] /9274

CITU OFFICIALS--Bombay, 24 May (UNI)--The veteran Marxist leader, Mr B. T. Ranadive was re-elected president of the CPM's trade union wing--the Centre of Indian Trade unions (CITU)--for the sixth term in the election held here yesterday, the concluding day of CITU's sixth conference. Also re-elected as vice-president for the sixth term was the West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu. Following is the complete list of the new officer-bearers announced by CITU. President--B. T. Ranadive, general secretary--Sawar Mukhrjee, treasurer--E. Balanandan. Vice-Presidents--P. Ramamurti, Jyoti Basu Manoranjan Roy, Mohammed Ismail, S. Y. Kolhatkar, Sushila Gopalan, C. Kannan, N. Prasad Rao, P. O. Sanzgiri, S. Suryanarayana Rao, (Mrs) Ahilya Rangnekar, R. Umanath and Chandi Prasad. Secretaries--M. K. Pandhe, Nrisingha Chakrabarty, Kamal Sakar, Miren Ghosh, M. M. Lawrence, P. K. Ganguly, Mohammed Amin, K. N. Ravindranath, Vimal Ranadive and Ranjit Basu. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 25 May 87 p 5] /9274

INDO-CZECH TRADE PROTOCOL--Prague, 24 May (CTK)--Czechoslovak foreign trade minister the Bohumil Urban and his Indian counterpart Mr P. Shivshankar signed a protocol at the 12th session of the Czechoslovak-Indian joint committee for economic, trade and technical cooperation here on Friday. The protocol provides for a more intensive development of trade cooperation which would reflect in Czechoslovak supplies for the construction of industrial facilities in India as well as a wider exchange of goods. The co-operation will concentrate on the power and petrochemical industries, coal mining. Indian exports to Czechoslovakia will include electronic products, cosmetics, leather articles, textile machines, machine tools, car accessories and other products. The committee also discussed cooperation of the two countries in third countries. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 25 May 87 p 11] /9274

INDO-AUSTRALIAN SPACE COOPERATION--Bangalore, 23 May--A memorandum of understanding for furthering Indo-Australian cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer-space was concluded here recently. An official release from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said the MOU also provided for identifying specific projects that could be of mutual interest to both the sides. A preliminary discussion between the space experts of both the countries had identified a number of areas where joint endeavours would be mutually interesting. The MOU is the outcome of these discussions. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 24 May 87 p 7] /9274

CPI-M ON RIOTS--New Delhi, 23 May--The CPM politburo today expressed grave concern at the riots in Meerut and Delhi. In a press note, the politburo said the protracted nature of riots, intensity of violence and breakdown of the administrative machinery in Meerut was truly disturbing. The scores of people of both communities killed, the large-scale arson and organised looting, all point to the failure of the Uttar Pradesh government to restore a semblance of order and security for citizens since the last round of serious rioting in April. The army has had to be called out to control the situation. In Delhi also, the relaxation of curfew in a tense situation has led to recurrence of violence with arson and looting and deaths of four people. These riots are taking place in the overall situation of growing communal tensions in the country. Gujarat continues to be gripped by communal violence with the latest round taking place in Broach. Various centres in U.P. and Maharashtra

have also witnessed communal incidents. "Once again the prime minister has declared that the communal forces which are out to create tension and organise riots will be firmly dealt with. The question is not of administrative measures alone but a combination of administrative and political measures," the press note said. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 24 May 87 p 9] /9274

REMOTE SENSING INTERPRETATION--An optical pantograph which has wide applications in the area of interpretation and superimposition of remote sensing data such as aerial photographs and satellite imagery has been developed by the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), a unit of the Department of Space located in Hyderabad. It is a rapid scale changing cartographic instrument capable of reducing and enlarging opaque or transparent images, with rectification capability. The optical pantograph is a cartographic autofocus instrument with motorised easel and lens. The equipment can project opaque or transparent originals. Illumination for opaque originals is provided by tungsten halogen lamps positioned automatically throughout the focus range, for optimum lighting. Fluorescent lamps provide illumination for transparencies. The image is projected vertically upwards through a 150mm lens onto a clear view glass. The knowhow for the instrument has been transferred recently to a small-scale industry in Hyderabad for regular production. [Photo caption] [Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Jun 87 p 22] /9274

INDO-MAURITIUS ACCORD--Harare, 28 May--India and Mauritius have signed a memorandum of understanding to cover wide-ranging cooperation in the field of information, Radio, Television and films, according to information available here. The Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Mr Ajit Panja signed the memorandum with Mr Parsuraman, Mauritius Minister of Education, Arts and Culture. Mr Panja was in Mauritius as the head of an Indian delegation to the festival of Indian films in that country. Over 14 Hindi and regional films were shown at the festival. It was announced at the signing ceremony that a children's film festival would be held in Mauritius to commemorate the birth centenary of Jawaharlal Nehru. The Children's Film Society of India will undertake the joint production of a children's film. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 29 May 87 p 9] /9274

NEWS EXCHANGE AGREEMENT--The 'Otechestven Front' newspaper of Bulgaria and PATRIOT on Sunday signed an agreement updating the existing bilateral agreement between the two newspapers. The agreement was signed by Bulgarian paper editor-in-chief G. Bachvarov and Mr V. D. Chopra, deputy chairman, Editorial Board, respectively on behalf of the two newspapers. Bulgarian ambassador A. Tonev and PATRIOT News editor A. K. Painuli were also present on the occasion. As per the agreement both the newspapers will exchange special articles on areas of interest to readers of both countries. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Bachvarov said they attached great importance to PATRIOT coverage and among the editorial set-up of his paper, PATRIOT had a position next to Izvestia. Mr Chopra explaining the serious situation India is facing in the context of new US global strategy said, PATRIOT is doing its best to fight the misinformation and disinformation carried on by the U.S. imperialists and their agents in India. The joint efforts by the two papers will help further expose U.S. designs, he added. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 1 Jun 87 p 5] /9274

TIES WITH SOLOMONS--India and the Solomon Islands have agreed to establish diplomatic relations, reports UNI. The Indian high commissioner in Suva will represent India by way of double accreditation and the roving high commissioner of the Solomon Islands in Honiara will represent his country in India, according to an official release. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 28 May 87 p 5] /9274

INDO-CZECH TAXATION PACT--New Delhi, 26 May--India and Czechoslovakia had entered into an agreement for avoiding double taxation in respect of taxes on income. The agreement, which was notified yesterday, has entered into force from March 13, 1987 and will be effective in India in respect of income arising in any previous year beginning on or after April 1, 1985. Under this agreement, business profits of an enterprise of one country shall be taxable in the other country only if it maintains a permanent establishment like a branch office, factory or place of management etc. Aircraft profits would be completely exempt in the country of source and shall be taxable only by the country of residence of the enterprise. With regard to dividends, interest, royalties and fees for technical services, the primary right to tax these incomes has been given to the country of residence. The country of source will limit its tax on these incomes to certain specified percentages. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 27 May 87 p 8] /9274

INDO-FRENCH RESEARCH COOPERATION--New Delhi, 18 May--India and France have decided to take up joint research in five advanced areas of fundamental and applied science for promoting cooperation. This decision was taken at the first meeting of the governing body of the Indo-French Centre for Promotion of Advanced Research (IFCPAR) set up in 1985. The identified areas include mathematics, information, optics and opto-electronics, new and renewable sources of energy and bio-technology. The Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Dr Vasant Gowariker, and the Director-General for Science Cooperation at the French Foreign Ministry, Mr Jaques Laureau, co-chaired the IFCPAR meeting which was also attended by the French Ambassador in India, Mr Jean-Bernard Merimee and observers from both countries. The governing body has decided to appoint an Indian scientist to head the IFCPAR. The cost of running the centre and its programmes will also be shared by the two countries. Four members from each country will constitute a scientific council which will hold its first meeting here in September. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 19 May 87 p 7] /9274

AMBASSADOR TO DPRK--Mr Surinder Singh Gill, presently Counsellor in the High Commission of India, London had been appointed Ambassador of India to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in succession to Mr K. G. Lalvung, reports UNI. Mr Gill is expected to take up his new assignment shortly, an official release said here today. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 Jun 87 p 5] /9274

CSO: 4600/1780

IRI LEADERSHIP IN CRISIS OVER WAR

Stockholm TUDEH NEWS in English 13 May 87 p 2

[Stockholm TUDEH NEWS biweekly in English; organ of Tudeh Party of Iran]

[Text]

The recent Iranian offensive (Karbala-8) marks the resumption of massacre and destruction in the Iranian new year (started on 21 March 87). Last year, in more than 95 futile military operations and air raids on cities great financial loss and human casualties were inflicted upon the peoples of Iran and Iraq. The catastrophe will continue as before. The great increase in the military budget and the regime's efforts to mobilise the people to fronts are all clear indications of this fact.

On 5 April 1987 the IRI radio service said in its analysis that "the allocation of an extra 70 billion tomans (about \$7bn) to supplement the current budget for the armed forces including both the army and the Revolutionary Guards Corps and also the allocation of one third of the countries foreign exchange to the war, is an indication of the diligence of the government and parliament treating the armed forces."

Having failed to bring about the promised end to the war, the regime is trying to find new ways for controlling the peoples anger against the empty promises made. In his speech to the

recruits for the slaughter-fields of the war, Rafsanjani said: "In my opinion the promises concerning decisive offensives made last year have been fulfilled. The blows delivered to the enemy last year have determined the destiny of the war". Rafsanjani is lying. Not only the destiny of the war has not been determined in the honour of Iran but the ground has been prepared for the intensification of crisis in our society. Multi-million masses are dissatisfied and are increasingly turning away from the anti-people IRI regime. This trend has reached such a level that the issue of ending the war has arisen even within ruling circles. Only a while ago all the different factions obeyed Khomeini's wishes in continuing the war. However, now that demands for peace and an end to the war have become popular slogans as a result of the efforts made by progressive and revolutionary forces, certain factions within the ruling circles are forced to look for a way out of the deadlock of the war.

Recently motor-cycle gangs have appeared in the streets of Tehran asking Khomeini to forgive Saddam. Without doubt these bikers enjoy the blessing and

backing of certain factions within the ruling circles for their actions which primarily aim to attract Khomeini's attention.

In his speech on 15 April 1987 Khomeini admitted to the existence of differences on the war. He said "those who use any excuse to buy time for Saddam, are now calling for a ceasefire during the holy month of Ramadan". In line with his normal practice of publicly attacking his opponents within the ruling circles, Khomeini by this time turned his whip towards the proponents of cease-fire and said "those who invite us to make peace are answerable to God".

To this effect the differences and the power struggle which were revealed as a result of the "Iran Gate" scandal, enter a new phase. It can be foreseen that Khomeini will not be able to prevent the further deepening of the crisis within the IRI leadership.

We must exploit the differences within the ruling factions and spare no effort to expose the anti-people nature of the whole regime. We must step up efforts to seek an end to this destructive war.

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CSO: 4600/252

PAPER REPORTS ON RAMPANT INFLATION

Stockholm TUDEH NEWS in English 27 May 87 p 2

[Stockholm TUDEH NEWS biweekly in English; organ of Tudeh Party of Iran]

[Text]

Unbridled inflation and high prices have resulted in the rocketing of the cost of living to unbearable limits. This is a reality which is being publicly admitted by the rulers of the Islamic Republican regime. A few months ago, Rasheedian, a member of parliament, asked "Can't you see that - people have had enough and they can't bear it any longer? Gentlemen! There was a day when rice was 70 Rials per kilogram (80 Rials is approximately equivalent to \$1) ... now it is 900 Rials per kilogram." (Etefa'at 15/10/86) Mr. Nadi, another MP, quoted the rate of inflation for the 1985/86 Iranian year to be 46.5%.

In the face of high prices and inflation, the IRI leaders, like the Shah's regime, can do nothing but propose irrelevant and superficial solutions. By fining or flogging a few racketeers, the regime is trying to obscure the roots of the problem.

The origin of the inflation and high prices lies in the dependent capitalist system in our country, the militarisation of the economy, the lack of supervision and the strengthening of the private sector and

the general chaos in the economy. Nearly 80% of Iran's imports are supplied by imperialist and capitalist countries. Thus it is to be expected that with the flood of imports, the inflation of world capitalist markets will also be transferred to inside our country.

The inflation problem has been excasperated by the regime's policy of continuing the Iran-Iraq war. In the current budget, the War has been allocated \$2.8 billion of the country's foreign currency resources and it has contributed to a budget deficit of 1,330 billion Rials. To "remedy" the deficit, the regime has increasingly given way to the private sector. Yet it is the private sector which, by its ruthless exploitation of the working people, has led to an increase in monetary supply of 15 %, and this too has in turn contributed to the steeply rising inflation.

The only remedy for inflation and high prices is the construction and implementation of fundamentally sound policies. The task is evidently beyond this unstable regime which is in the grips of deep internal conflict.

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CSO: 4600/252

SWEDEN'S NOBEL REFUSES BID TO REBUILD PLANT

Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 14 May 87 p 8

[Article by Ola Sall: "Nobel's Factory in Iran destroyed by Iraqi Attack"; first paragraph is SVENSKA DAGBLADET introduction]

[Text] The Nobel Chematur chemical factory in Isfahan, Iran, was bombed into fragments by Iraqi aircraft. The Iranian defense industry demanded that Nobel Chematur rebuild the factory, but were told no.

"We will not return until our personnel can work under safe conditions. And that cannot happen as long as the war continues," said the managing director of Nobel Chematur, Bertil Jansson.

All Swedish personnel were called home after the bombings at the end of 1986. Vital parts of the factory were destroyed, and as long as the work is stopped the Swedish firm avoids criticism for supplying the Iranian forces with explosives.

"We do not look at it in this way. We have a contract which we will fulfill if possible," said Bertil Jansson.

No Compensation

Economically the firm has escaped from the affair scott-free with a total of 700 million kronor. The Iranian customer had paid almost all when the factory was bombed. Nor does Iran demand any damages for Chematur quitting during the final phase.

The Iraqi Ambassador in Stockholm, Mohammed Al-Sahaf, warned in SVENSKA DAGBLADET on 4 October that Iraq would bomb the factory until they were sure that it could no longer operate. The statement came several days after the first bombing attack on the factory, which was just then ready to start operations.

In the examination by the Constitutional Committee [KU] into weapons export, which was published last week, it states that Iraq carried out the ambassador's threat. In the KU report the factory was bombed several times

after the first raids in the beginning of October. It will take at least one year to rebuild the factory.

Can Be Explosives

Iraq considers Nobel Chematur's installation as a part of Iranian war industry. The chemicals manufactured there could be used as raw materials for the manufacture of explosives.

The customer is the National Defense Industries Organization. The name implies that the company has ties to the military, as does the fact that the factory is within a military area. Nobel Chematur has claimed that the chemicals are to be used for civilian purposes, and they have denied knowledge of what the chemicals are used for. The products are acetic acid, sulfuric acid, nitric acid, ethyl alcohol, sodium sulfite and nitro products.

In the KU examination, Undersecretary Carl-Johan Aberg was asked the question whether ammunition manufacture was suspected.

"We have not found any reason to suspect that, in any case not in Isfahan, but we lack all possibilities of determining where these products went."

'Military Installation'

In the KU investigation with the Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society, Henrik Westander said that the society's four secret Iranian informants claim that the factory is a military installation.

"The entire Iranian society is aimed at the war. It is unreasonable from a military strategy standpoint that they should begin to manufacture explosives for civilian purposes when it is all needed at the front. Foreign observers are laughing at the information that explosives would be used for civilian purposes during a hot war," said Henrik Westander in the investigation.

9287

CSO:3650/156

MULLAHS CRITICIZED FOR OBJECTING TO JUNEJO'S REMARKS

Karachi AMN in Urdu 4 May 87 p 2

[Column "From Jumma Khan's Pen": "Prime Minister Pestered by Mullahs"]

[Excerpts] Some mullahs associated with the parliament, who like ostriches buried their heads in the sand in order to throw dust in everyone's eyes, have issued a joint statement criticizing Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo's speech delivered at the inauguration of the Baluchistan Assembly building. In that speech the prime minister said that the people are the fountainhead of power, and that they alone possess superiority in a democracy.

These mullahs declared that Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo is the head of an Islamic government of Pakistan. God alone is the fountainhead of the supreme power and all other power. The Koran and the Sunnah hold the upper hand in the state of Pakistan. Our constitution, too, confirms this fact. Therefore, it is not fitting for the prime minister to proclaim the people as the fountainhead of power, they said.

Just as our homeland is known as Islamic, democratic Pakistan, but neither an Islamic nor a democratic system exists here, so many mullahs are just nominal Muslims. Their character negates the Koran and the Sunnah so much that even their faces are not in keeping with the Holy Prophet's tradition. This is why they could not prepare the nation for the enforcement of an Islamic system and they could not perform their duty of providing it with effective guidance. Since they do not practice what they preach, their sermons leave no imprint on the people. If their words had any efficacy, there would be no trace of social evils. Falsehood, bribery, smuggling, immorality, corruption, usurpation, adultery, obscenity and immodesty are spreading because the religious scholars have failed to perform their duty. They have set such high prices to deliver sermons, address meetings held to commemorate Imam Hussain's martyrdom and perform marriage ceremonies that an ordinary person cannot afford their services. They are no longer simple. They do not wear patched clothes. Their necks have become fat. They reside in grand mansions. They ride in cars worth hundreds of thousands of rupees. When they mention the righteousness of the Prophet of Islam (peace be upon him) and the orthodox caliphs, they forget their own dress, house and means of conveyance. Those listening to their sermons are aware of how very worldly they are. So their sermons leave no imprint on the hearts of their listeners.

Undoubtedly God himself is the fountainhead of supreme power and all other powers. But usually in a democratic system the people are described as the fountainhead of power, because they alone possess the authority to elect representatives to the highest office. They also have the right to refuse obedience, and to remove a ruler they dislike. The caliphs, too, did not become caliphs according to their own wishes. It was the people who elected them. The present rulers also went to the people to ask for votes. They could not have become rulers if they had not gone to the people. A democratic system is not a negation of Islam; in the current circumstances, it is close to Islam. That is why the prime minister, when declaring the people are the fountainhead of power, recognized that they alone possess democratic superiority. His statement did not mean that he was challenging the supremacy of God. He demonstrated realism, but the mullahs made a filthy dare in order to pull his leg and to mislead simple-minded Muslims by giving the wrong meaning to his statement. Perhaps they do not realize that their spell has already been broken. The light of knowledge has removed the veil from the eyes of simple Muslims. They have come to understand that 'half mullahs' are a danger to the faith.

9779/12851

CSO: 4656/85

PRESIDENT URGED TO BECOME 'POLITICAL' HEAD OF STATE

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 27 Apr 87 p 3

[Column "siyasat namah" by Abdul Karim Abid]

[Text] MRD circles claim that President Ziaul Haq rejected the draft of an address to a joint session of the parliament provided by the Junejo government and had a new speech prepared in which the latest martial law period was not only justified but even described as worthy of respect. The MRD workers are upset over this, and in meetings everywhere they are saying with anxiety and sorrow that the president has gravely insulted the prime minister, his elected government and the parliament. This arrogance has even infuriated our friend Irshad Ahmed Haqqani, who writes in a recent column, "Are we permitted to remind the nation's president of one parliamentary tradition? In countries under parliamentary rule, the address of the head of the state takes its form with the approval of the prime minister and his cabinet. The address of a president, a king or a queen may be written anywhere, but before being read, it must receive clearance from the government, and by government is meant the prime minister and his cabinet. The head of state cannot make a speech that has not been approved by the prime minister. This is a parliamentary tradition that is respected at any cost. The question is whether this tradition is being respected here. In other words, was the president's recent address cleared with the cabinet and the prime minister?"

This act of highlighting differences between the president and the prime minister may be performed out of friendship or out of hatred or it may have some other basis, but one thing should always be kept in mind: at the present juncture in Pakistani politics, it is not correct to assume that the president of today is the same as the powerless president of the 1973 constitution or just another Fazal Ilahi Chaudhary. Nor has the present prime minister come to power through a well-known parliamentary system or on the basis of parliamentary traditions. The prime minister is fully conscious of his powerlessness, and that is why he has no intention of challenging the president's supremacy. But there are many people in the country who desire a conflict between the prime minister and the president, and they keep trying to influence the prime minister's thinking and attitude. Whatever is being done and said about the president's address is part of the same process.

Inevitably, there are differences between the president and the prime minister, but despite these differences the prime minister will have to keep working with the president so that fresh elections can be held on a party basis and a real parliamentary system with political power may come into existence.

Many times both at the time of elections and after the elections it has been stated in the "siyasat namah" column that a parliament elected on the basis of adult suffrage is the real embodiment of authority. In Europe, the parliaments created by kings ultimately not only rebelled against their creators but even issued orders that the king be beheaded, and thus got recognition for the supremacy of parliament. This history can be repeated here, but the result may not be the victory of democratic forces, as was the case in Europe. This is because unlike European parliaments, our parliament is not strong, and instead of putting it at risk, it would be better to save it, and by safeguarding it, take it forward. It is possible that once elections are held on a party basis, a new and strong parliament may come into being, but until that happens, the weak parliament will have to keep in mind its weak and imperfect nature. Accordingly, when Junejo remarked in London that the prime minister does not have the authority to remove the president, Bazenjo rightly described it as a joke.

The president said in his presidential address that the civilian government is supreme over the military and that the military has no constitutional role, but the real danger does not lie in its constitutional role. The real danger lies in its unconstitutional role, whereby at any moment the civilian government can be brought to an end. Against this unconstitutional role, everyone has been helpless. This role can reappear at any time. This is true because not only President Ziaul Haq but every soldier feels that his responsibility is not limited to guarding the borders but rather that whenever the country suffers from disunity and civil war, it becomes his responsibility to take action. This feeling or right in the military cannot be eradicated by the removal of any one person or by ideological debates or self-praise. For this, all political elements will have to take a path of moderation and understanding and thus develop a political power that will be respected both within and outside the country. At the moment, in our weak condition, we cannot make great strides toward this actual goal and so we are forced to go step by step. It is for these compelling reasons that people accept the present parliament and prime minister, even though in the process many parliamentary traditions, rules and conventions have been violated. But we have accepted these sacrifices so that we may move forward, and like us, Mr Junejo will have to use patience and diplomacy. In fact, a greater responsibility falls on him inasmuch as he is so weak that he can be crushed at any time. Therefore he needs to beware of those who sow seeds of suspicion. In our opinion, tension between the president and the prime minister cannot do any good. Rather, it can only result in worsening the situation.

As far as the president's speech is concerned, it appears that he has not learned much. Although he said that he is not opposed to Islam, democracy and elections and that he willingly and gladly introduced democracy and wanted to see it flourish, previously he had said that he called elections very reluctantly, so people sense that democracy is not the darling of President Ziaul Haq and the military. It was said only out of compulsion. If democracy were what they wanted, they would not have taken 9 years, instead of the 9 months they promised, to introduce democracy. Nor would they have introduced such a truncated and moth-eaten democracy. If today the president says he does not want martial law, it is not because having seen the damning results of martial law he is ashamed of it. The fact is that the United States, on whom he depends, gave the order to introduce democracy, and so it was done; the United States wants democracy to continue, and so it is being permitted to continue. But regarding the emotions and feelings revealed in the speech, it cannot be deduced that our president has changed his nature and that he is ashamed of his 9 years of martial law.

The president referred to the martial law era not with shame but with pride; he said it is the responsibility of the military to take charge during periods of internal disorder and that is what they did in July 1977. Later he said with great pride that during this time he created conditions conducive to elections and transferred the power to an elected leadership. What is the reality of this pride and claim? We ask the president: try to understand the new situation, which demands a strong democracy instead of a weak one. The issue is not whether the government and the parliament over which you preside should continue up to 1990 even if during that time lawlessness and disorder should become extreme. What is important is that you have got to go. There is no escape from this, and it would be better for you to allow a full-fledged leadership to come forward that can control the situation later on and for the parliament and civilian government that you have created to serve as bridges and not as stumbling blocks for the new leadership. This would be the best thing for the president, for the Junejo government, for the political parties and for the present parliament. But in the speech he addressed to the joint session of parliament, he did not emerge as any different from the Ziaul Haq of the martial law era, even though he now claims to be part of a political system. In this respect, he should adopt a political identity and a political mentality and viewpoint. His speech reflected his old mentality. It did not have any good news for the politicians which should lead them to conclude that in the interests of broader political understanding and education in the country, he wants to adopt his old, (congenial) style.

Whether the president likes it or not, in order to remain president in the future he will have to adopt political ways, and not only will there be increased domestic and foreign pressure to do this, but he himself will find that his own interest and that of the country lie in him changing his attitude, in making it political, and by talking to politicians he should endeavor to enlist their cooperation in order to improve the situation. If, God forbid, this does not happen, then he could very well be instrumental in destroying the fortress of parliament and government that he built himself, and that will be because of his patent martial law mentality.

NATIONAL DEBATE ON AWACS ISSUE PROPOSED

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 7 May 87 p 10

[Editorial: "AWACS---Need for Confiding in the Nation"]

[Text] In the middle of this month, the United States and Pakistan are going to commence regular talks on furnishing Pakistan with an air surveillance system. During these talks, after an analysis of various aspects on the expert level, a final decision will be made in this regard. Everyone is aware that with the Soviet aggression in Afghanistan, the danger to Pakistan from the southwest frontier has already been enhanced. Also, people are aware that Pakistan is regarded as deserving severe punishment for supporting the Afghan Muslims' struggle based on truth and justice. In this regard, every other day we witness fatal incidents as a result of the bombarding of Pakistani territory with artillery and the violation of Pakistani airspace by Afghan aircraft. Innocent Pakistanis are being wounded and killed in these attacks, not to mention the destruction of homes and property. As a matter of principle, Pakistan's position on the Afghanistan issue does not differ from that of the entire free world, the expression of which is based on the platform of the United Nations, the nonaligned Movement, the Islamic Conference Organization and other international institutions and organizations. However, since Pakistan is situated on the Afghan border, the punishment for maintaining a stand based on truth and justice is being inflicted on Pakistan alone. It is to Pakistan's credit that it has always demonstrated patience and courage with regard to the Afghan bombing and airspace violations and that it has tried its utmost to prevent the spread of war. At present, Pakistan desires and is striving to have the Afghan issue settled on a political level through talks in Geneva. There also exists in Pakistan the intention to take full advantage of the offer to achieve reconciliation and establish peace made by Soviet leader Gorbachev in this regard. In reality, however, the Soviet Union, instead of demonstrating a positive reaction in response to Pakistan's attitude and intentions of truce, is taking measures to further suppress Pakistan. There are repeated violations of Pakistani airspace. Hundreds of innocent Pakistanis are facing death as a result of each bombing incident. Due to its peculiar situation, so far Pakistan has been incapable of checking such air violations in the region. The attacking Afghan aircraft enjoy the benefit of this. They suddenly carry out a cowardly act and return to their own territory, and it is impossible for Pakistani fighter planes to pursue them. Recognizing

these difficulties, Pakistan asked the United States to provide it with an air surveillance system such as the U.S. AWACS aircraft. According to a spokesman of the U.S. Defense Department, the United States is prepared to furnish Pakistan with AWACS aircraft, but there are legal and technical obstacles in this connection. The first problem is that the AWACS aircraft cannot be delivered in less than 3 years. The second problem is that the United States wishes to send its own crews along with these aircraft. The most difficult problem is whether Pakistan, in case it acquires the AWACS, would in principle shoot down the intruding Afghan aircraft. There are those who have expressed the fear that even if the AWACS aircraft were instantly acquired on lease, their maintenance would require endless expenses. A substantial number of F-16 aircraft would have to be allocated to protect them. One drawback of this would be that the air safety system on our eastern borders would become weak. And the threat of a sudden Indian-Israeli attack on Pakistan's atomic installations has been hanging over us for some time. In such circumstances, would the AWACS crew alert the Pakistani Air Force or not? Nor is it clear in the event of an Indian-Pakistani war whether Pakistan would be able to continue the use of the AWACS aircraft, or whether the United States would recall them. With regard to the AWACS aircraft, the major danger is that their presence could expand the sphere of the Afghan war. The Soviet Union has already expressed displeasure in regard to them. According to the Soviet news agency TASS, "These measures are incredibly like a provocation." With this background, the dangers seem to carry more weight. It is essential, therefore, that instead of making a delicate decision merely of the administrative level, the entire nation should be taken into the government's confidence concerning this matter, so that, in the future, if the situation should deteriorate, the nation would be fully prepared and mentally ready to deal with these dangers. At present, the country has a civilian elected government, it is essential that the government take the people into its confidence and make vital decisions only after holding a national debate on the issue.

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GOVERNMENT URGED TO CONTROL SPREAD OF WEAPONS

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 27 Apr 87 p 3

[Editorial: "Arms and Ammunition Said Spreading to an Unprecedented Degree, Causing Concern Among People"]

[Text] Sind Chief Minister Ghaus Ali Shah has said that the display of arms at political meetings and processions will be banned because such actions are inappropriate. Talking to newsmen at the Sukkur railway station recently, he said, "Even though the arms are licensed, it is not appropriate for us. The government will try to stop it through education; otherwise, the law will be used to stop it."

This decision of the government is entirely correct; many times previously the media has brought this dangerous trend to the attention of the government. The way this practice of displaying arms at meetings and processions has intensified recently in Sind, and particularly in Karachi, has every peace-loving citizen worried. For some time the various strata of people has repeatedly come into conflict with one another. Under these conditions, such a show of force leads to fear and doubt as well as to suspicion about one another. Therefore when one stratum or group displays arms at meetings and processions, another stratum feels threatened and believes that these arms can be used against it at any time. This group therefore deems it essential to intimidate the other group by a show of even greater force, and thus begins an arms race among different strata of the masses, very similar to the kind that starts between two powers or two countries. Caught between these strata is the majority of people, who either do not have arms or cannot keep arms, who want to live in peace and who are unhappy at the thought that when those displaying arms resort to the use of arms, they may be killed in the crossfire through no fault of their own. This concern of peaceful citizens is not without basis, for whenever there have been such conflicts, innocent people have been killed in large numbers. Seeing such an abundance of arms and the merciless use of such arms, even the common man has started thinking of acquiring arms by some means. Tensions are increasing, man is afraid of man, and it is not overstating the case to say that the government's policy of silence and lack of courage are largely responsible for this increase in tension.

If the government had taken note of this trend right at the beginning, the distressing change in the situation that has occurred during the last 8-9 months could have been averted. It is because the administration turned a blind eye to these practices that there was a display of arms in Nishtar Park. Later, arms were used in Sohrab Goth. On 14 December the town of Orangi witnessed the worst example of madness, and then arms became the subject of discussion in every street and corner. The government did not, as it should have, arrest these people and punish them for their actions. In that case, sensible people would have condemned this trend. On the contrary, some thoughtless people began to fan these elements and to advocate acquiring more arms to confront the arms. People have gained the impression that the government is helpless and that the law of the jungle prevails. If the government had given any evidence of its existence, this would not have happened. Returning violence in answer to violence is not the solution to any problem. You acquire one rifle and your rival will acquire two rifles, and the race will never end. This is especially true when, as in Pakistan, the acquisition of arms has been made so easy. Even the rural population and the backward elements obtain rocket launchers and Kalashnikov rifles. The press has reported that even the dacoits are equipped with armored vehicles and the most dangerous weapons. The government's lack of concern has led to a situation wherein by force of arms people are occupying the homes of others and are raiding nearby towns. Now the government is describing the display of arms as inappropriate, and this includes those arms that according to the chief minister are licensed. But the question is, what has been done to those who made inappropriate use of licensed or unlicensed arms and what method will be devised to check and confiscate the illegal arms? And is this in keeping with our temperament?

One can assume from the chief minister's attitude regarding the display of arms that the government still is not serious about this problem. This is because the chief minister has already declared that these arms are licensed. My dear sir, has anyone taken the trouble to check the licenses of these arms? Especially when the chief minister immediately adds that "illegal arms are being smuggled into Sind, and particularly into the districts adjoining Baluchistan." If these illegal arms are being smuggled in, there must be a demand for them somewhere. One day before the recent fighting in Surjani Town there was an unrestrained display of arms at Benaras Chowk, and as a result people's houses caught fire. Did any government official go there to check whether those arms were licensed and whether the people who recently raided Surjani Town fired their bullets after showing their licenses to the police? Then how can it be said that these arms are licensed? And even if they are, a license to keep arms does not give one a license to use them anywhere one pleases. But the chief minister says that "the government will try to end this trend of displaying arms with the help of counsel and education." If this is so, then we should forget about controlling the spread of arms. The strange thing is that on every issue, the government has begun to resort to education--whether the problem is arms smuggling, illegal occupation of property, investigation of murder or the punishment of dacoits. If this trend continues, then the day is not far off when education will be the method used even to deal with thieves and hoodlums.

INDIA TODAY INTERVIEWS FOREIGN MINISTER

BK261651 Delhi INDIA TODAY in English 30 Jun 87 p 14

["Excerpts" of an interview granted by Sri Lankan Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed to INDIA TODAY deputy editor Dilip Bobb and senior correspondent S.H. Venkatramani in Colombo "last week"]

[Text] Question: What is your reaction to India's air dropping of relief supplies?

Answer: We have already said it was a naked violation of our independence and a most unwarranted assault on our sovereignty and integrity. I find it difficult to understand why they should have done this. When Delhi expressed its desire to send relief supplies to the people of Jaffna we said we were prepared to consider it and were willing to work out the modalities of such a supply. They said this aid had to be rushed. When the plan of sending the flotilla was announced, Jayewardene sent a message to Rajiv that we were prepared to sort this out, and to nominate somebody from both sides who could meet in Delhi or Colombo. Our approach has been one of accommodation to avoid misunderstanding.

Question: Then why did India have to intrude into your airspace?

Answer: That was what surprised me also. We said let us work out the modalities of distribution of the intended relief supplies. All that was needed was that somebody from here should have received the supplies, and that some arrangement should have been worked out to satisfy the wishes of the donors in its distribution. It was not a serious problem. It could easily have been worked out. India shouldn't have rushed in like this and ruined the relations between the two countries. What was even more surprising was that there was enough food on the ground in Jaffna to last for four months. True, there were certain difficulties in distribution, because the environment wasn't normal. But there was no shortage of foodgrains.

Question: Why couldn't you convince Delhi that the supplies weren't needed?

Answer: That was what we tried to. Foreign office officials in Delhi and Colombo could have sorted the matter out. But India rushed the flotilla. And if this matter could not have been sorted out between South Block and Colombo, it was hardly likely to be sorted out on the high seas. And

ultimately what we got was a demarche of 35 minutes. Delhi did not give us any explanation while announcing its plan to intrude into our airspace. What added insult to the injury was that we were told that any resistance would be met with force. You cannot issue threats like that. You don't conduct bilateral relations like that. Not a country like India. Nobody has to teach India the tenets of diplomacy.

Question: But New Delhi has justified its stand on humanitarian grounds?

Answer: I don't agree at all with the charges that India has made. But even if we accept that what Delhi says was true you still cannot conduct diplomatic relations in this fashion.

Question: What has been the result of the Indian action?

Answer: India's actions have disturbed the age-old traditional ties of friendship and goodwill between the two countries. One can only hope now for an early return to normalcy. Subsequently Delhi has told us that they wanted to discuss through diplomatic channels the modalities for distribution of the remaining foodgrains. And we have responded positively. So now I think wiser counsel is prevailing in Delhi.

Question: Will you boycott the forthcoming SAARC meeting?

Answer: We have still not taken a decision. We are happy that SAARC has been born, and it is not the intention of Sri Lanka to wreck SAARC in any way. It is only the boycott of the ministerial meeting of SAARC that is being considered.

Question: How does your government's reportedly intended acquisition of anti-aircraft weaponry from Pakistan help matters?

Answer: Every country is entitled to build its defence capabilities. But even a child would not accept the theory that Sri Lanka can be a threat to India.

Question: How do the recent developments augur for future Indian mediation on the Sri Lankan ethnic problem?

Answer: We first want this present problem with India out of the way. The clouds will have to be cleared. But this ethnic conflict cannot be resolved without India's participation. The issue has a certain emotional value in south India. There is state patronage for Tamil terrorists in Tamil Nadu. India has a federal system and that makes it difficult for Delhi to police the actions of the government in Tamil Nadu. We have become an important factor in south Indian politics. Since the DMK split we have been witnessing the tragedy of being caught in the whirlpool of south Indian politics. It is no longer just an ethnic problem in Sri Lanka.

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END