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Near East/South Asia Report

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3 March 1985

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ALGERIA

1978-1984 NATIONAL BUDGETS ANALYZED

Algiers REVOLUTION AFRICAINE in French 25 Dec 84-3 Jan 85 pp 14-18

[Text] The recent presentation of the 1985 draft finance act to the National Popular Assembly has given rise to many debates.

As usual, some relate to the legislation proper, others are concerned with its actual impact and the consequences to be expected for the social, economic and cultural life of the country. The text and the general objectives of the 1985 Finance Act are designed to in practical terms reflect the reorientation of the country's economic and social policy of the past 5 years. The various measures of the respective finance acts that have marked this period (1980-1984) in effect emphasized the priorities and requirements asserted at the time of the Extraordinary Party Congress. These requirements are, on the one hand, the satisfaction of the social needs of the public and, on the other, the reorganization, restructuring and return to profitability of the economic apparatus, restoration of the dynamism of industry and, lastly, the sector of agriculture and water management. All this presumes a better utilization of financial resources, in particular the oil revenues, as well as consideration of the major financial balances--both internal and external. Greater vigilance is again needed to allow our development plans to correspond with the actual financial situation and thereby protect the country against all--but specially outside--hazards.

Whatever one might say about the austerity of Algerian budgets in the past few years, they are far from implying zero growth. The 1985 Finance Act, intended to coincide with the first year of the new 5-year plan (1985-1989), reflects the trend to the pursuit of investment efforts; it sets out toward realization of some objectives and projects which will reinforce our economy thanks to the improvement of industrial output and integration among major enterprises and sectors of activity. The enormous resources put at the disposal of these sectors so as to lift the last restraints hindering them from realizing the hoped for output, will certainly permit them to respond to an increasing demand for quantity and quality. In view of the experience acquired by our domestic economic operators, the resources available--both material and human--and, lastly, the development of the demand in conjunction with the steadily increasing population of Algeria and the generally rising standard of living of the Algerian public and the parallel appearance of new "social needs," characterized by new requirements with regard to leisure,

culture, education and health, it is now imperative to inundate the domestic market with domestic products of high quality. All development must be perceived as one.

An Investing Society

Considering the efforts agreed upon and still needed in future, it would behoove us to speak of an "investing society" rather than a consuming society. The figures speak for themselves and quite properly reflect this will to maintain investment at a high level to guarantee the accumulation of assets and promote output. In 1978-1984, the national budget has "leaped" from about 30,000 million dinar to more than 105,000 million dinar. This figure alone reveals the continuing trend and the choice of economic growth as the guarantor of our present and future, despite a difficult international economic and financial situation and the drop in oil prices in the past 2 years as well as the threat still hovering over natural gas prices. It is therefore surely not wrong to call Algerian society an investing society. The country's capital equipment budget has quadrupled in 1978-1984. It rose from 12.6 billion dinar to more than 46 billion dinar. In a developing country such as ours and to perfect intersector integration, produce an efficient fabric of PME's [small and medium-size enterprises], distributed all over the country and, lastly, to respond to the new socio-educational and cultural needs inherent in the growth of incomes and population, the demand for a basic industrial infrastructure and various capital equipment will have to display a rising trend for many years, whatever the circumstances. The operating budget's share in the general budget has been maintained at close to 50 percent, a substantial level. It would certainly have dropped if timely efforts had not been made to maintain the operating budget within reasonable limits by instituting, in particular, greater austerity in government spending and fighting the various abuses and wastes that inflate the spending of many public enterprises and institutions. It should be noted that, since 1980, our efforts at accumulation have proceeded exclusively by virtue of national financial resources. With the aim of limiting the effects of the external debt on the national finances and making a start on cutting these debts, recourse to international loans has been renounced or at least brought down to manageable levels. Recourse to the international financial market (credit) now involves much stricter initial criteria, and that has resulted in a return to the "monopoly" of the financial institutions in this realm, whereas earlier business operators presented themselves singly on the international financial market. It follows that this perseverance in the quest for a balanced budget has enabled us to realize substantial balance of trade surpluses in the 4 consecutive years 1980 to 1984.

Our external debts were reduced by roughly 2 billion dinars in 1984. The choice was simple: To avoid being caught in the nets of the IMF or other institutions, the country had to stop living beyond its means and begin relying on its own capacities. Spending cuts in some sectors, imposing limits on the recourse to international financial institutions and redeeming debts when due--these are laudable steps but inadequate. In recent years resolute measures were therefore adopted to reduce our dependence on oil revenues. To

be noted especially among these measures is the trend to limit and even eliminate the impact of oil taxes on the operating budget.

In 1985, it will be necessary to meet the important operating expenditures from ordinary revenues, without the help of oil earnings. This will need sacrifices; the tax assessment base has been enlarged and includes all earnings. Fiscal fraud and income from speculation will be tightly controlled. In future, operating expenses will be met by direct and indirect taxes, various business taxes, customs revenues and property taxes and the miscellaneous taxes. Oil taxes, for their part, will be used exclusively to increase total national capacity with respect to capital equipment and to improve Algeria's financial situation vis-a-vis other countries. This relatively cavalier handling of oil revenues helps to explain the minor impact of the reduction in our volume of exports of crude these past few years, consequent upon the slackening of world demand and the subsequent "price collapse." Large added values have been realized thanks to the development of processed and refined products such as condensate, LPG, and so on. In financial terms this has compensated the drop in the volume of crude oil exports. The "oil challenges" launched in recent years--involving smaller and smaller export volumes and lower prices--are not enough, because the international market is still very precarious and the assault on prices more resolute. As the report referring to the Eleventh Five-Year Plan notes, our national economy will still need to confront a highly unfavorable international business climate in 1985-1989: 98 percent of the country's foreign exchange earnings still depend on oil and gas which are subject to severe fluctuations. It is imperative, therefore, for new efforts to be undertaken to arm ourselves against such eventualities and pursue the process begun in the past 5 years to restore national finances. The share of oil and gas in the gross national product amounted to 36 percent in 1980, to only 26 percent in 1984. By 1989 it is expected to account for less than 24 percent. Diversification of the structure of our economy and increased exports of commodities other than oil and gas are the order of the day.

As the Extraordinary Congress unequivocally stated, the satisfaction of our citizens' social needs must no longer be a secondary concern. Its detailed recommendations were concretely reflected in past finance acts, and a renewal of interest--and therefore loans--in the diverse social sectors has been perceptible. In the period 1978-1983, the housing budget jumped from 1,323 million dinar to more than 8,450 million dinar. This was needed to gradually bring down an alarming housing deficit, estimated at more than 1 million units of public housing. Though inadequate in view of the magnitude of the challenge, our efforts are enormous due to the need to allocate large loans to sectors which had long been afflicted by arrears not made up in earlier plans. Some of the loans were devoted to rural housing in order to retain the local population and prevent that rural exodus which unbalances urban-rural relations and distorts any policy aiming for the efficient management of the national territory. Here we should also note the important role assigned the backing of the construction industry and the encouragement given people willing to build their own homes. Our citizens' contribution to the resolution of the housing crises thus turns out to be crucial, and the essential measures may well be realized in this framework.

As for public health and social security, the money allotted to reinforce the equipment of this sector quadrupled from 1981 to 1984. Allocations rose from 650 million dinar to more than 2,170 million dinar. These new resources made available to the health and social security sector served to enlarge and develop sanitary infrastructures, promote preventive medicine, take care of the needy and the handicapped and, lastly, promote the integration of spastics and other handicapped people in society and productive life.

In the past few years, the Mujahidin have benefited from large appropriations, some ordinary, others special. The money devoted in the operating budget to this minority has risen from 480 million dinar to almost 2,500 million dinar in 1984. This demonstrates the wish of the political rulers to settle all the social problems of the Mujahidin and other eligible persons, allowing them to escape from their earlier precarious material situation.

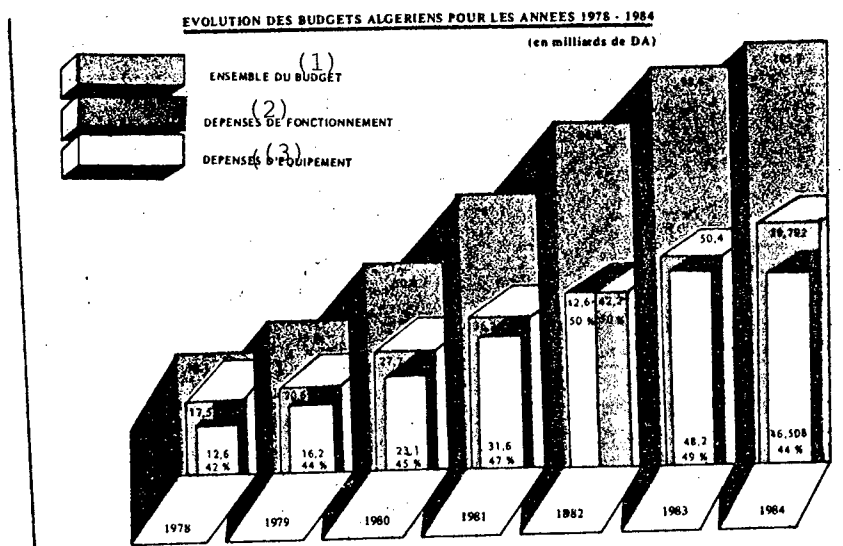
Education and culture have always enjoyed absolute priority. This has never ceased, and the figures to hand certainly do not deny that.

The operating budget of this sector which directly affects 25 percent of the population has steadily increased. It tripled in the years 1978-1984, and the financial allocations to this sector have risen from 4,938 million dinar in 1978 to more than 14,000 dinar in 1984. The policy of democratizing education shows up most plainly in this context. It should also be noted that vast loans have been granted the sector of professional training since 1982. These loans are part of the operating budget and increased from 495 million dinar in 1982 to 892 million dinar in 1984.

New centers have been taken into service and will certainly bestow a new vitality on this sector which is called upon to take care of thousands of students outside the school system and supply the economy with skilled workers. Some 900,000 new jobs had been created by the Eleventh Four-Year Plan. In general, we have been able to note in these past few years a greater emphasis on public spending in the equipment budgets than in the operating budgets. In 1978-1984, the social budget within the general operating budget grew by 323 percent, while the economic budget rose by only 239 percent.

In the equipment budget, the percentage of credit devoted to the social sector hovers around 55 percent, and from 1978 to 1984, credits have climbed from 6,907 million dinar to more than 20,700 million dinar. It follows that the "social economy" is on the way to achieving a substantial status in our country. It is also true to say that real development is not entirely a matter of economic growth. The real development is multidimensional.

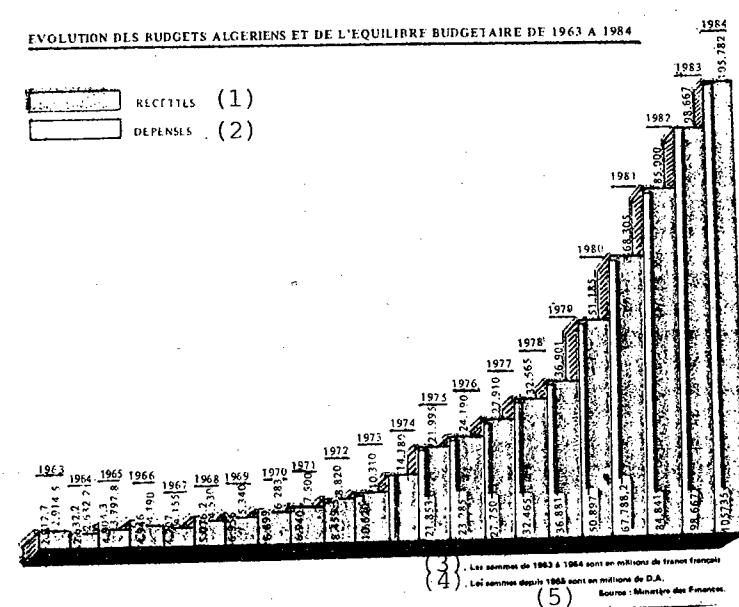
Graph 1: Development of Algerian Budgets 1978-1984 (billion Algerian dinar)



Key:

1. Budget total
2. Operating expenses
3. Equipment expenses

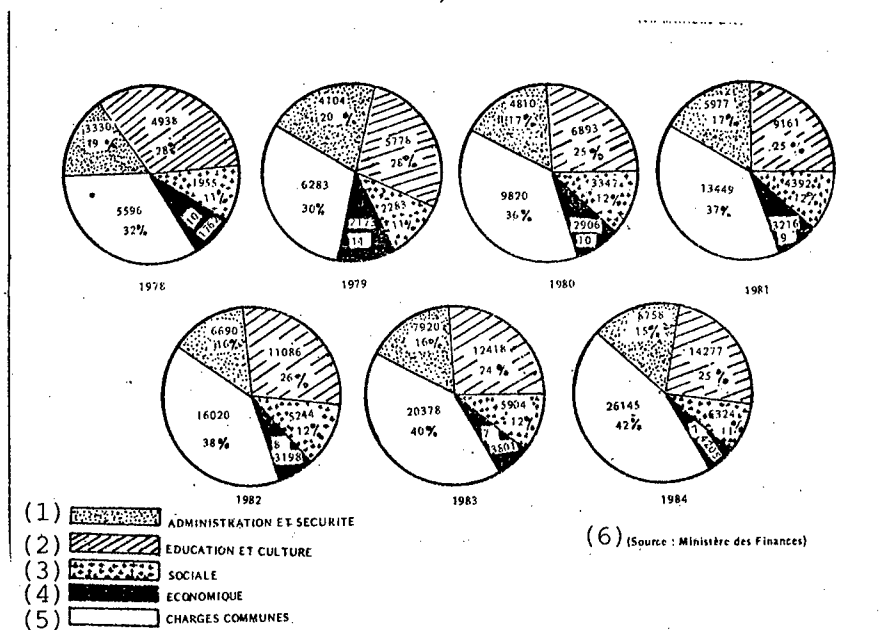
Graph 2: Development of Algerian Budgets and Budgetary Balance 1963-1984



Key:

1. Revenues
2. Expenditure
3. 1963 and 1964 figures represent French francs
4. Figures since 1965 represent million Algerian dinar
5. Source: Ministry of Finance

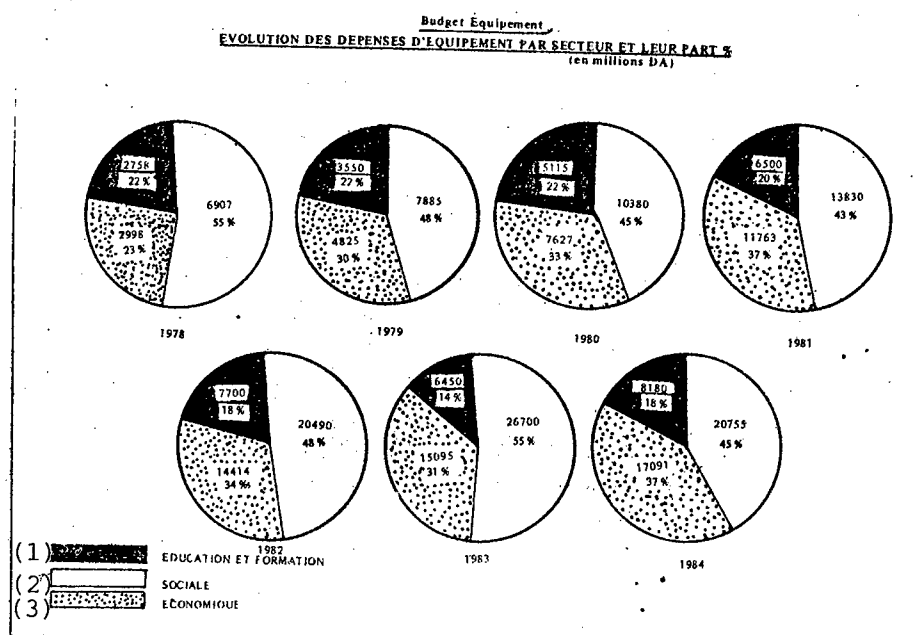
Graph 3: Operating Budget - Percentage Evolution of Operating Budget Expenditure (million dinar)



1. Administration and defense
2. Education and culture
3. Social

4. Economics
5. Common charges
6. Source: Ministry of Finance

Graph 4: Equipment Budget - Percentage Evolution of Equipment Expenditure by Sector

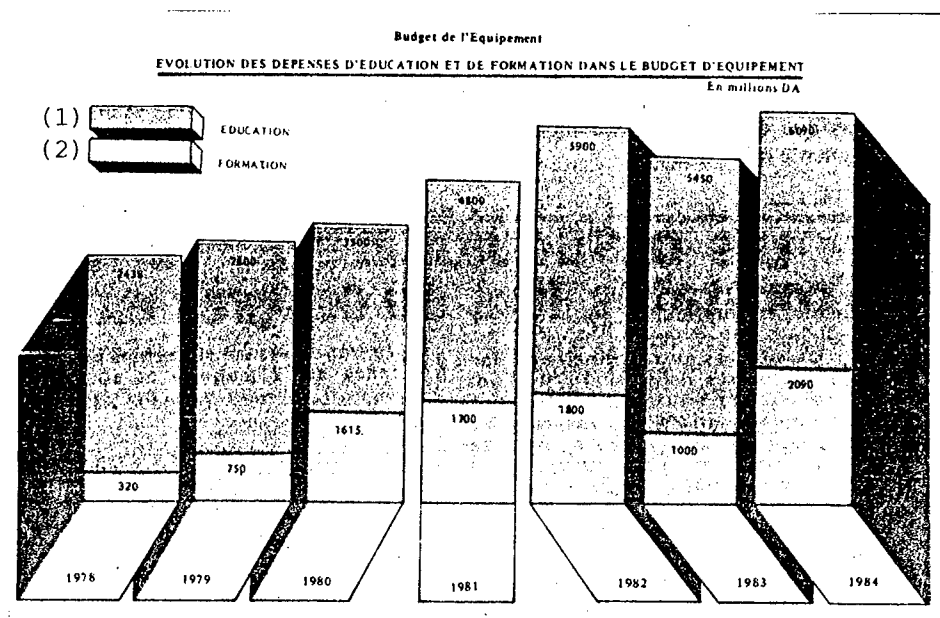


Key:

1. Education and professional training

2. Social
3. Economic

Graph 5: Equipment Budget: Evolution of Education and Vocational Training Expenses in the Equipment Budget



Key:

1. Education

2. Vocational Training

Graph 6: Final Applied Revenues of the General Budget 1978-1984 (million dinar)

		1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
(1)	1) CONTRIBUTIONS DIRECTES	3928	2710	3160	3830	5972	7650	8697
(2)	ENREGISTREMENT ET TIMBRES	309	278	298	318	554	1000	1363
(3)	IMPOTS DIRECTS SUR C.A.	6304	5466	6614	7492	10070	14000	15915
(4)	CONTRIBUTIONS INDIRECTES	4207	4522	4781	4884	5020	5550	6310
(5)	PRODUITS DES DOUANES	3210	2670	3287	3916	5020	7667	8715
(6)	PRODUITS DES DOMAINES	78	80	80	120	125	200	750
(7)	PRODUITS DIVERS DU BUDGET	1786	1470	1200	1550	1400	5090	7242
(8)	RECETTES D'ORDRE	15	15	15	15	10	10	14
(9)	FISCALITE PETROLIERE	17365	19690	31750	46180	56829	57500	56776
(10)								

Source : Journal Officiel

Key:

1. Direct taxes

2. Registration and stamps

3. Direct taxes on current accounts

4. Indirect taxes

5. Customs Receipts

6. Property Taxes

7. Miscellaneous revenues

8. [Translation Unknown]

9. Oil taxes

10. Source: JOURNAL OFFICIEL

EGYPT

CONFERENCE DISCUSSES DETERIORATION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI in Arabic No 833, 31 Dec 84 pp 30-32

[Article by 'Izzah 'Ali: "Danger Threatens Green Strip; Scientific Studies Show Desertification of Nile Valley"]

[Text] In an attempt to warn public opinion and to draw official attention to the serious nature of the issue, al-Minya University held its second conference from 10-12 December 1984 on the deterioration of Egypt's cultivable land. The facts demonstrate that the phenomenon of desertification poses a general threat to the semi-arid countries and there is proof that the desert is constantly encroaching on the green lands. The world became aware of the phenomenon in the late 1970's and an international conference on fighting desertification was organized by the United Nations in 1977. This conference said tht the danger of desertification is threatening all semi-arid areas of the world and agreed that the danger emanates mainly from man's misuse of his resources and of technology. When listing the countries threatened with the danger of desertification, the conference said that Egypt and the area adjacent to it fall within the world's desertification area and that the danger of desertification facing Egypt ranges from high to very high. This means that the area is subject to the processes of a rapid to very rapid deterioration of its land resources if the current conditions persist and that the desertification manifestations shown on the map indicate that most of Egypt's lands are subject to the accumulation of salts and of alkali.

The conference went on to say that the Egyptian aquifer is screaming from the misuse of the land and its poor drainage and that the Egyptian farmer has actually begun to suffer in recent years from the inundation of his land and from the accompanying manifestations and consequences that threaten his livelihood. This is in addition to other phenomena which we create with our own hands and which depict the gloominess of the picture.

Serious Endeavor on Part of al-Minya University

Through more than 60 scientific studies conducted by more than 100 researchers and experts from all the Egyptian universities and research centers, the conference tried to discuss all the phenomena of deterioration threatening the cultivable land, be they the phenomena of salts and alkali resulting

from poor drainage or the other well-known phenomena about which a lot has been said, such as construction development and the removal of cultivable top soil. The discussions at the conference have been characterized by extreme objectivity. However, the conference lacked discussions at the national level, perhaps because of the failure of ministers to take part in the conference and because the conference discussions dealt with the issue as an agricultural issue and not as an issue tied to the Egyptian economy, with the exception of some figures noted by a number of speakers in the opening addresses. However, the conference was a good start for discussing the issue.

As noted by Dr 'Atif Kishk, professor of land science at the Agriculture College of al-Minya University and chairman of the conference preparatory committee, the conference was part of a series of conferences started by the university in February 1982 out of its determination to attract the attention of public opinion and of the officials to the danger threatening the Egyptian agricultural lands and emanating from land deterioration or, to put it in other words, from the phenomenon of desertification which is embodied in the encroachment of the desert upon the peripheries of the valley and the delta, the rise of salinity and alkalinity in the lands and the deterioration of the fertility of the agricultural lands. These latter two phenomena also include all the green cultivated areas. This is in addition to the other visible phenomena, such as the removal of cultivable top soil and construction development which devour each year no less than 60,000 feddans of the most fertile agricultural lands. The conference called for consolidated national efforts to prevent the occurrence of a tragedy that threatens to transform 6 million green feddans into desert land.

Facts Before Conference

The conference started its activities with numerous facts available to it from the first conference, which was held in February 1982, to discuss the same issue. However, this conference tried to make its discussions as optimistic as possible to avoid the comments of the media which described the previous conference as pessimistic. Nevertheless, this endeavor has not been able to conceal the facts, namely that Egypt's land deterioration is evident in the erosion of large areas, in the removal of topsoil from other areas and in the accumulation of salts and alkali in numerous other areas to the degree where this accumulation prevents the growth of crops, not to mention the areas which are desertified and the areas whose fertility is exhausted. This loss of fertility is compensated through the use of mineral fertilizers, despite their high prices. This is in addition to the consequences of polluting the soil with pesticides, heavy minerals, fertilizer leftovers, industrial waste, detergents and radioactive substances, all of which are pollutants that damage the soil fertility and change the agricultural production which relies on this land. The conference concluded that the serious situation pertaining to the deterioration of Egypt's agricultural lands emanates from several fundamental factors:

The first is the fact that Egypt is located in an extremely dry part of the world where the problem of land deterioration is more intense than in the humid areas.

Population density in the cultivable lands of Egypt exceeds the critical limits for population density in the dry areas, which do not surpass 10 persons per square kilometer. Moreover, most of Egypt's cultivable land is subject to salination and alkalinization and to wind erosion.

Agriculture still is and must continue to be, the cornerstone of the Egyptian national economy, since it contributes nearly 29 percent of the total national production whereas in the United States and other advanced countries it does not represent more than 3-4 percent of this production. Moreover, half of Egypt's population lives in the countryside and works in agriculture.

Population pressure on Egypt's cultivable lands is very high, with the individual's share of this land not exceeding one-seventh of a feddan.

Most forms of Egyptian life are centered in the valley and the delta. Therefore, all the industrial and tourist development endeavors are made at the expense of the currently cultivable areas in the valley, which is bordered by the desert on both sides, thus exposing it to desert sediments which reduce the fertility and productivity of the strip adjacent to the desert.

The calculations made on the loss in agricultural production that result from the decline of land indicate that Egypt's actual cultivable area is a little less than 6 million feddans. When the drop in production resulting from the decline in lands is deducted from this area, the remaining acreage does not exceed 4 million feddans by much. Thus, instead of the individual's share amounting to less than one-seventh of a feddan, his share of the fully productive cultivable land drops to less than one-tenth of a feddan.

Added to this are, as the conference pointed out, two other considerations;

First, land is not a renewable natural resource.

Second, land deterioration is an irrevresible process, meaning that when this deterioration occurs, it is practically impossible to restore the land to its past condition by virtue of the length of time and of the enormous scientific and material resources such a reversal demands.

Desertification Is Posing Threat to Green Land

In discussing the various aspects of the issue, the conference pointed out the danger in the rise of the underground water level and the subsequent rise in the salinity and alkalinity of cultivable lands. This is the number one danger from which 3 million feddans suffer, with this acreage affected

in one way or another by the problem of salination or alkalization and with productivity dropping by as much as the degree of salinity rises. The drop in production may range from 10-15 percent. In the long run, salinity could result in the total loss of productivity and in preventing the growth of any crop.

The phenomenon of the decline in the fertility of the Egyptian cultivable land as a result of intensive farming which exhausts greater quantities of the nutrient elements in the soil and as a result of the growing tendency to cultivate high-productivity varieties.

The desertification of the peripheries of the valley and the delta, with desert sediments carried to the cultivable lands, especially those located on the edges of the valley and the delta. These sediments often consist of rough grains with a high lime content which is harmful to the Nile Valley's cultivable lands.

The phenomenon of the pollution of cultivable lands as a result of the widespread use of fertilizers and of the excessive use of pesticides, especially the use of fertilizers which contain nitrates and which are damaging to the soil.

The phenomenon of the removal of cultivable topsoil for the purpose of producing red bricks and the phenomenon of the erosion of soil by water and wind.

The phenomenon of construction development which devours 30,000 feddans of the best cultivable lands each year.

The facts brought up by the conferences studies include:

The phenomenon of desertification which has actually afflicted the lands of project in al-Tail al-Kabir, east and west of the Nile and in Northern al-Tahrir Province, as well as projects in southwest Sinai, even though the first and second projects rely on the Nile River water and the third project is irrigated by underground water.

The changes that have taken place in al-Minya Governorate on the Nile Valley, especially in the areas of Bani Muhammad, Sultan, Northern al-Minya, Karara and Jazirat Sharun. The studies have shown that these sands causing the changes come from the Western Desert.

It has been specifically discovered that the area affected by desertification amounts to 1.75 million feddans where agricultural production has dropped by nearly 20 percent.

The spreading problem of inundated lands is the latest problem to emanate from the rise in the level of the underground water which has resulted from the construction of the High Dam and from supplying irrigation water throughout the year under the so-called system of constant irrigation. One of the

High Dam's objectives was to improve drainage in the valley and delta lands, with the dam acting as a natural drain from the lands surrounding it, thus enabling the underground water level in these lands to drop lower.

But what has happened is the exact opposite, with the underground water level rising from a depth of 10 meters to a depth of half a meter. The rise in the underground water almost to surface level or to a level shallower than the danger level causes the water to rise to the surface through absorption by capillaries and results in the accumulation of salts in the soil. Through repetition of the process, salts accumulate on top of the alkali in the area where plant roots are spread to the extent where the salts affect plant growth and crop production. In the conference's endeavor to answer the important question concerning the dimensions of this problem and its impact on agricultural production, the issue of the unavailability of data was raised and it was pointed out that the currently available data do not permit an accurate determination of the dimensions of the problem, since the grading survey conducted on Egypt's lands is relatively old whereas the problem is spreading rapidly. However, the initial estimates indicate that the area of land affected by salts and alkali amounts to nearly 3 million feddans. The impact varies from one site to another. But the studies indicate that the general average drop in production as a result of this phenomenon alone amounts to 25 percent.

Several observations were made on the technical flaws in the covered drainage network projects which are being constructed at present in terms of distances, depths, inclination, lack of serious followup and lack of adequate coordination between implementation of the field drainage activities and the deepening and clearing of the public drains:

The inability of the farmers to acquire agricultural improvements on time.

The lack of data on the distribution of lands affected by salinity and the degree of this effect, because there are no maps.

Facts Stated by Conference

The conference reached the following conclusions:

The land deterioration problems in Egypt are such serious and far-reaching problems that the agricultural development process in Egypt will be affected negatively by these problems if the current tendencies persist in the future.

Finding the right solutions for the problems of land deterioration requires the concerted effort of all Egyptian citizens, beginning with the farmers and ending with the scientists, the planners and the decision makers.

Solving the problems of land deterioration also requires full coordination between all the ministries, agencies and authorities concerned with the use of land and water resources. It also requires supplying the necessary data and information concerning the investments needed for scientific

research, education, training and guidance and government aid and loans in the sphere of the preservation of the limited land and water resources. The conference has emerged with several recommendations in an attempt to convey its voice to the officials. These recommendations include the following:

Setting up a land preservation agency in the Ministry of Agriculture with the task of collecting the studies conducted on land deterioration, the task of determining the inadequate aspects of the data and studies to make up for these inadequacies so that the studies may cover all the problems of land deterioration in Egypt and the task of continually drawing up modern and detailed maps on land deterioration problems--maps that are upgraded over appropriate periods of time.

Bolstering and developing the soil, water and plant laboratories that serve regional areas so that they may conduct periodic analyses for the farmers and the researchers as well as bolstering the cooperation and coordination in this regard between the universities, research centers and the ministries of agriculture and irrigation.

Setting up a data bank controlled by the Scientific Research and Technology Academy.

Streamlining the use of pesticides of all kinds and studying their side effects and residual effects on soil, water, air, plants, animals and man.

Conducting profound studies on the side effects of modern tendencies concerning the use of land and water resources, such as intensive cultivation and the use of drainage and sewerage water and of city wastes.

Expanding the use and cultivation of plants that grow naturally in the Egyptian environment and that resist salinity and alkalinity.

8494

CSO: 4504/168

EGYPT

PREREQUISITES FOR EXPORTATION OF COTTON EXAMINED

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI in Arabic No 833, 31 Dec 84 pp 52-53

[Article by Yusuf Hanna Yusuf: "Will Vague Conditions Obstruct Cotton Exportation?"]

[Text] The conditions announced in mid-November by the Public Sector Authority for Cotton Affairs regarding the sale of cotton in the new 1984-85 season are not much different from the conditions for the past cotton seasons. However, this year's conditions stipulate that the Public Sector Authority for Cotton Affairs approve the offers made to the export companies before the conclusion of the contracts instead of having such offers approved by the government representative at the Union of Cotton Exporters, as was the custom in past years. Such approval becomes a must with the establishment of the authority as of the middle of the year.

The conditions have added a new provision stipulating that the sale be made on the basis of an unconditional and irrevocable credit document issued by a first-grade bank for the total sum of the contract before shipping starts. Interest becomes due 15 days after submission of the documents on the basis of the price set by the Central Bank on the date the credit is opened, i.e., when the prices of the new crop are announced and go into effect.

The phrasing of the above provision has raised questions. Concluding the sale on the basis of submission of the credit document means that the documents for registering the contract must include a document of credit in order that the sale may be concluded. This is unreasonable because the buyer of 500 bales costing more than \$4 million at the lowest posted price in the previous season, namely at a cost of \$1,1405 [as published] per bundle, for example, cannot open a credit for this sum until the end of October or even the end of next June because of the subsequent freezing of millions of dollars, not to mention the banking costs emanating from opening such a credit. The cotton sector officials have noted that the purpose of this provision is to have the purchaser open credit for the value of cotton to be shipped before this cotton is shipped.

This is why we believe that the authority must add to the sale contracts, which it will register after the prices are posted, a new provision demanding

that credit be opened for the part of the total volume of the contract to be delivered. This is what the authority has sought to achieve with this provision but its phrasing has come to contradict its purpose.

In the same provision, the authority stipulates that interest be calculated within 15 days of the documents, but without defining the bank to which these documents should be submitted and whether it is the local bank to which the exporting company delivers the shipping document or the foreign bank which opens the credit after the Central Bank sends it these documents upon examining them. If the hidden purpose of this provision is submission of the documents to the local bank, then such a requirement would be meaningless, especially since the authority has added the words "for information" because this means adding the value of the credit as soon as the shipping documents are submitted and are in compliance with the credit requirements.

The authority has responded to these questions and has introduced modifications to the above provision to make it clear. However, the word "unconditional" has not been omitted even though there is no "unconditional" credit because every item of credit has certain conditions demanded by the side offering the credit to insure repayment. The period in which the interest becomes due has also not been canceled even though the credit is (on call).

The buyers who have not implemented their contracts, either by failing to ship the quantities agreed upon or part thereof or by failing to repay the costs of delay, of storage or of the fine they owe, will not be permitted by the authority to deal with the new cotton crop unless they pay the stipulated fine which amounts to 25 percent of the value of the contract that is not implemented, plus the reservation costs.

It is worth noting that nearly 5,000 bales remained unexported by the end of last October and that no letters of credit were submitted for them. Thus, a fine amounting to 25 percent of the value of these bales plus monthly reservation costs of 1.25 percent of the sale price are due for these bales as of 1 June 1984 and until the date of shipping or cancellation.

The new sale conditions have maintained the same fine percentage and the same percentage for reservation costs as of the beginning of June 1985, with these sums added to the value of the final bill on the basis of the number of days of the month according to the shipping policy date.

There has also been no change from last season in the permitted percentage by which a bale may either exceed or fall below the set weight, namely a difference of 0.02 percent. The value of exported cottons will be calculated on the basis of the humidity test certificate which is issued by the Public Arbitration Authority and the basis of the cotton tests.

According to the sale conditions, the buyers will have to pay the costs of the cottons whose shipment they want delayed until after October 1985, plus the due cost of reservation. These purchases are then stored for the buyers

in return for storage and insurance costs of 0.75 percent a month. This cost was 0.50 percent last year.

The currencies with which the Central Bank permitted dealing upon announcement of the sale prices are the U.S. dollar, the Swiss franc and the German mark for all countries, the pound sterling for England, the French franc for France and the Japanese yen for Japan. But this specification does not prevent any of the first three countries from dealing with any of the first three currencies, which are the same currencies used for transactions in the past season.

The total commitments of the 1983-84 crop amounted to 519,374 bales or 3,391,512 quintars, including 374,393 bales or 2,444,786 quintars for the Arab countries, 6,978 bales or 567,966 quintars for the Eastern Bloc countries remitting free currencies, compared to 114,206 bales last year, and 58,003 bales or 378,760 quintars for the agreement countries of Russia and China. Thus, last season's commitments amounted to 16,371 bales or 3,015,752 million quintars in free currencies compared to 488,827 bales for the 1982-83 season, i.e., with a difference of 27,456 bales [all figures as published].

Cotton exports in the 1982-83 season amounted to 489,000 bales or 3,193,000 quintars in free currencies and 165,000 bales or 1,077,400 quintars for the agreement countries. Thus, the difference between the 1982-83 commitments and the 1983-84 commitments amounts to 134,132 bales or 875,882 quintars. Consequently, Egypt's exports of white gold, which used to constitute the number one source of free currencies, are declining year after year.

In the 1983-84 season commitments in free currencies, the Jirah-75 variety topped the list (34 percent), followed by the Jirah-70 variety (32 percent) and then the Jirah-69 variety (16 percent). The commitments to the agreement countries were also from these three varieties. The percentage of commitments in free currencies amounted to the following: 77.65 percent in dollars, 11.2 percent in Swiss francs and 8.32 percent in German marks.

Japan was the biggest importer of Egyptian cotton, buying 94,124 bales, followed by Italy with 87,466 bales, West Germany with 59,300 bales, Switzerland with 1,338 bales, Pakistan with 2,842 bales, Taiwan with 1,587 bales, Israel with 108 bales and South Korea with 14,366 bales in accordance with the protocol concluded in 1983.

The Ministry of Agriculture had not issued by the end of last November its estimates of the 1984-85 crop nor figures on the area that is supposed to be cultivated with cotton. However, it did announce that the production volume is nearly the same as last year's volume, despite a drop of 15,000 feddans in the cultivated acreage. These are figures that require numerous clarifications because they do not make clear what the cultivated area is and what the production volume was last year in order to make it possible to speculate, temporarily, what the new season's production will be.

When we learn that the acreage cultivated with cotton in the 1983-84 season amounted to 998,277 feddans, which yielded 7,883,300 qintars at an average of 7,8969 qintars per feddan, then the acreage cultivated this season is, according to the announcement of the Ministry of Agriculture, 983,277 feddans with an average production of 7.9 qintars per feddan. However, the estimates indicate that the acreage is much less than what has been announced and that the productivity is lower this year than last year. Accordingly, the crop is estimated at 7.88 million qintars, of which 5.5 million qintars will be allocated for the local mills and 52,000 qintars for al-'Amiriyah Company and the Egypt-Iran Yarn Company. This means that the surplus in the new crop is 15,000 bales compared to 519,000 bales last season, with a drop of 204,000 bales or 1,322,000 qintars [figures as published]. Therefore, contracts for exports from the new crop will last no more than a few days. Numerous Western countries actually began as of last October defining the quantities of cotton they need. Moreover, delegates of the Eastern countries are exerting efforts with the authorities concerned to acquire the largest quantity possible of the new crop.

If the Public Sector Authority for Cotton Affairs wishes to increase the quantity exported, then it will have to reduce the quantity allocated for the local mills. This is undesirable because it will reduce the operation volume in the cotton mills. This is why most people concerned with cotton affairs believe that the authority should import short-staple cottons for these mills in return for exporting our superior long-staple cottons which we use for producing popular textiles. Such a step will yield to Egypt the benefit of the difference in price.

If the Policies Committee approves this opinion, it is expected that nearly (2 million) bundles, each weighing 48 lbs, or the equivalent of 135,000 bales, weighing 870,000 qintars, will be imported from the United States. However, some cotton experts believe that the quantity imported will exceed 1 million qintars.

The prices of the 1984-85 cotton crop will be announced at the end of November and speculation varies on the increase in these prices over last season's prices. The prices of the new crop are determined by several considerations, including the high price of the dollar, the interest rates for foreign currencies and the production of (other cotton crops competing with the Egyptian cotton). All these factors are taken into consideration. The foreign cotton mills are motivated to purchase cotton at the lowest prices so as to reduce their costs.

The unanimous opinion of those engaged in cotton affairs is that Egypt must increase the actually cultivated acreage and enhance the productivity of the feddan and must overcome the difficulties facing this objective in order that the export companies may be able to meet the needs of their importing clients in the Western countries, may respond to the requests of the Eastern Bloc countries for Egyptian cotton and may secure cotton for local consumption, which is growing steadily and so that Egypt may not import the white gold which used to be its main source of foreign currency revenues.

EGYPT

ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM OUTLINED

Paris AFRIQUE DEFENSE in French No 81, Dec 84 p 46

[Text] The Egyptian Ministry of Defense signed with the Electronique Serge Dassault [ESD] Corporation an agreement under which ESD will supply to Egypt a TA-23E anti-aircraft turret derived from the well-known TA-20 turret but equipped with two 23-millimeter guns of Egyptian make and an RA-20S radar unit produced by ESD. This Sinai TA-23E turret, installed by Egypt on one of its M-113 A2 vehicles, was presented at the Cairo show in November 1984 at the same time as a second M-113 equipped with an RA-20S radar unit constituting a small command post for anti-aircraft defense able to control a certain number of artillery pieces and vehicles. Field tests with firings on target by all the components of the two vehicles will take place in Egypt in the spring of 1985. This materiel competes with the Nile-23 produced by Thomson-CSF.

General Characteristics

The TA-23E weapons system developed by ESD in cooperation with the Egyptian Government benefits from the extensive experience acquired by the ESD in the field of anti-aircraft defense. The TA-23E, derived from the TA-20/RA-20S system in service in numerous countries, is made up of the following: A lead vehicle, a command post vehicle equipped with an RA-20S radar unit; and satellite vehicles (maximum four) equipped with two 23-millimeter guns and six missiles each.

The TA-23E system is mounted on the M-113 A2 vehicle. This vehicle equipped with the TA-23E system is amphibious and can be airborne for transportation purposes.

All the turrets of the satellite vehicles have the capability of being outfitted with an RA-20S radar unit. A tank thus equipped with radar capability becomes the lead vehicle and makes it possible for the four-vehicle group (one lead vehicle and three satellite vehicles) to engage two different targets simultaneously. The position of the targets (coordinates, distance, and speed) is transmitted from the lead vehicle to the satellite vehicles by radio.

Technical Specifications

The RA-20S radar unit, mounted on the M-113 A2 command post or on a TA-23 turret, is of the Doppler pulse type with an E-band frequency. It insures the detection of aircraft and helicopters located 12 km away and the detection of helicopters hovering 5 km away. Targets are located with an accuracy of about 1 degree.

The TA-23E turret is armed with a double-barreled 23-millimeter gun unit and with six missiles. It can pack 1,200 rounds of ammunition and 12 missiles. It has a hydraulic servo-control. Its gunshight is a day telescopic sight with a field of $\pm 60^\circ$. Its total reaction time is 5 seconds. Transmission of data can be made to a distance of up to 2 km.

The M-113 A2 chassis has a weight of 11 tons and a speed of 67 km an hour. It has a range of 480 km. It can climb slopes with an inclination of 60° . It is amphibious and can be transported by air.

Operational Characteristics

The TA-23E system selected by the Egyptian Army is characterized by the following features:

Efficiency of the RA-20S radar unit.--The latter is particularly effective against low-altitude attacks by ground attack aircraft and armed helicopters hovering or flying at very low altitude.

Great firepower of the double-barreled TA-23E 23-millimeter gun.--It can fire 600 rounds (twice 300 rounds) from the turret without reloading and the vehicle carries 600 rounds in reserve as well as six missiles and six others stored in the vehicle.

Rapid reaction time.--Two seconds maximum are sufficient to determine the direction of the attacker over 360 degrees.

Flexibility of use.--A group of three or four M-113 vehicles may be used with a single RA-20S radar unit. All armored vehicles are equipped to receive the RA-20S and can switch their function from satellite vehicles to lead vehicles.

Great Autonomy.--The TA-23E is completely autonomous with its detection and firepower capabilities making possible short preparation time and very short reaction time.

Easily adaptable optronics.--The TA-23E system may, as an option, be hooked up to modern night vision systems (thermal or infrared).

Proven maintenance and logistical support.--Comparable systems are already in service in many countries.

Personnel training capabilities.--Simulators for the TA-23E turret and the RA-20S radar unit make it possible to train a radar operator or a gunner of the TA-23E system in less than a week.

MOROCCO

REQUEST TO JOIN COMMON MARKET EXAMINED

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 88, 15-21 Dec 84 p 35

[Text] Before Spain and Portugal become members of the European Common Market and at a time when this issue is, by purely European standards, about to materialize, Morocco has filed an application to join the Common Market for reasons which the latter could neither ignore nor delay.

In a recent interview with the Parisian paper LE MAIN [as published], the Moroccan monarch disclosed that his country applied to join the European Economic Community through French President Francois Mitterrand and that the latter had in turn informed the leaders of the governments of the nine countries which are members of the Common Market of this during the European Council's convention in Fontainebleau last June. France was chairing the Market then. The Moroccan king told the same paper that Morocco is, geographically speaking, more European than Greece (which is already a member of the Common Market).

Two days after the Moroccan king's disclosure of this request, the national Moroccan papers quoted the welcoming response of the Belgian papers in this regard. LA LIBRE BELGIQUE, in French, pointed to the role which Morocco might play in the European security system and said, "If Spain and France believe that Morocco will join the EEC, they will encourage her to take part in the aerial cooperation for the Western Mediterranean on the grounds that reinforcing the European pillar of NATO will increase its independence from U.S. authority."

Arab diplomatic circles in Rabat presume that the Moroccans' exploitation of the security obsession which constitutes a permanent source of European anxiety will be a powerful motive to open the EEC doors for Morocco. This is true particularly because Spain, whose defense minister recently visited Morocco with a mutual defense agreement between the two countries in his briefcase, is involved in military treaties with both France and Portugal. It is not far-fetched that the agreement has already been signed among these three countries to join Morocco to them in order that a new military strategy could come into existence. This would, it is assumed, reach dimensions of great economic value to all the countries of the Greater Maghreb.

The same circles perceive that Morocco's membership will save it once and for all from the imbalance of its foreign trade with the EEC countries in the domains of textiles, hides, agricultural products and by-products, and fish resources. Two ideas are cropping up: the first is that of the continental bridge between Tangier and Gibraltar, which Morocco and Spain have agreed to construct so as to join Africa and Europe through Morocco. The second is the idea of building a Euro-African natural gas pipeline to convey gas from the Gulf of Guinea and North Africa to Europe across Morocco and Spain on the understanding that this pipeline will enable Europe to reduce its dependence on the Soviet natural gas coming from the fields of Siberia.

European sources believe that establishing this pipeline requires settling the Morocco-Algerian dispute and even go so far as to say that its establishment might assist in achieving reconciliation between the two states. Despite the Spanish fears over the future of the Moroccan towns of Ceuta and Melilla, the Spanish foreign minister, Mr Fernando Moran, recently declared his support for the idea of establishing an overall security system in the Mediterranean basin on the basis of agreements to be ratified among its countries for the purpose of neutralizing this zone and keeping it away from allying with this superpower or that.

It has been decided that both Spain and Portugal will be included in the Common Market at the beginning of 1986, if the current negotiations go well. Representatives of the ten member countries are meeting in Dublin this month to discuss the effects that would derive from the two countries joining the Market.

It is said that many voices that oppose Spain and Portugal's joining the Market are heard inside the latter's headquarters in Brussels. Some experts think that the decision to accept Spain and Portugal was taken owing to political considerations in the first place and that it will increase the economic hardships of the member countries, particularly as regards liquidating surplus agricultural products. These experts say that the increasing gap between political goals and economic achievements may mean Europe's failure in realizing either one in the future after those two countries join.

Expressing these worries, Jean Francois Poncet, the former French foreign minister, says that Europe is not Europe without Spain but Spain's joining the Market has to be on certain conditions or else the situation will turn into a calamity. Poncet's fear of this calamity is shared by many at the EEC headquarters who are afraid of the accumulation of problems because of Spain and Portugal's inclusion.

Therefore, Spain and Portugal's inclusion, despite these objections, is tantamount to victory of political decision-making over the economic considerations inside Europe. This may be looked upon as success for the Moroccan point of view which calls for joining the EEC for reasons the most significant of which are political and security, in addition to Morocco's economic gain. These European security considerations give Morocco a strong

negotiating position to convince Europe to contemplate the issue of Morocco joining the Market.

In case the request to join fails, Morocco, in its retreat, will, of course, demand that it keep all the rights and privileges it currently enjoys and that these privileges, which may vanish with the expansion of the EEC, may not be affected by the inclusion of Spain and Portugal, which produce most of the agricultural crops that Morocco at presents exports to Europe.

On the other hand, Moroccan economists are planning for the future on the basis that the difficulties facing Moroccan exports to Europe will increase. They are studying the feasibility of opening up to Arab countries or to the markets of developing countries which need the Moroccan products. The key to success in this new policy will be good marketing of Moroccan goods and services.

12718

CSO: 4504/132

AFGHANISTAN

SOVIET CONVOY ATTACKED BY RESISTANCE

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 19 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] ZAHEDAN, Sistan-Baluchestan Pr., Jan. 18 (IRNA)--The Afghan Muslim Mujahideen fighting the Soviet-backed regime of Afghanistan, blocked the Jaji Pass in Paktia Province and inflicted heavy casualties and damages on a military convoy of the Soviet and government forces in a recent operation.

An Afghan soldier who was wounded in this operation said that a large number of the Soviet and government forces were killed and wounded and 80 soldiers surrendered to the Mujahideen with their weapons.

He further said there was widespread defection in the military garrisons and added that most Afghan soldiers forced to serve a four or five-year term, flee after a few months and join the Mujahideen.

He also said Afghan soldiers were living under difficult conditions and once wounded, they were left unattended.

Meanwhile, the leader of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan Golbeddin Hekmatyar, said Wednesday in Peshwar that the Soviet bombardment of the villages of Garave and Issa Khil in Qandoz Province has resulted in the martyrdom of 570 of the inhabitants.

He further added that Soviet bombardment was in retaliation, to the attack of the Afghan Muslim Mujahideen on government supply units in the region, killing high-ranking Soviet officer and disabling two tanks.

Meanwhile, an informed Afghan Mujahideen source said in a recent operation against the Soviet and government forces in Takhar Province, the Mujahideen downed one helicopter and destroyed two tanks killing their crew.

CSO: 4600/247

AFGHANISTAN

MUJAHIDIN SAID TO CONTROL HERAT AT MOST TIMES

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Jan 85 pp 1, 2

[Text]

MASHHAD, Khorassan Province (IRNA) — The Afghan Mujahideen fighting the Soviet-backed regime of Afghanistan, control the city of Herat most of the time, said Mohammad Esmail Khan, an Afghan Mujahideen commander, in an interview with IRNA here Sunday.

He said that the recent attacks by the Soviet and government forces on the Mujahideen strongholds around Herat have been a total failure.

He added, in each attack the occupying Soviet and Afghan government forces deploy large number of tanks and armoured units because they fear the retaliation of the Mujahideen.

Further on the same subject, he added that during the past ten months, the Soviet occupying forces have launched eight attacks on the Mujahideen positions and in each attack they have employed more than 1,000 tanks

and military vehicles and some 80 fighter planes and helicopters.

The objective of such attacks around Herat and nearby villages, he said was to block the border strip.

Following these attacks, he added, some 200 villages around Herat have been evacuated and by destroying the harvest of the villages the Soviet forces are trying to impose an economic siege against the Mujahideen.

Earlier, in a surprise attack last week on an armoured unit of the Soviet and government forces near the Shindand air base in Farah Province, the Afghan Mujahideen inflicted heavy casualties and damages. The Afghan Muslim Mujahideen sources in Zاهدان, Sistan and Baluchestan Province, said that following the attack, six government soldiers surrendered to the Mujahideen.

CSO: 4600/251

AFGHANISTAN

OVER 42,000 CIVILIANS SAID TO HAVE LOST LIVES IN 2 YEARS

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 20 Jan 85 p 5

[Text]

More than forty two thousand civilians lost their lives in Afghanistan during the 5th year of Soviet aggression.

The Agency Afghan Press annual war analysis from 16 December 1983 to 15 December 1984, reveals that the Soviet air operations by aircraft and helicopter gunships and ground operations through artillery and armoured units martyred 42,164 unarmed civilians, these included more than 80 percent children and women. Most of the people were martyred due to non-availability of medical aid during the ruthless Soviet military operations.

During the 5th year of this war 5945 Soviet soldiers and officers and 4573 Karmal troops were killed while more than 10,000 military-men were wounded. The Mujahideens' losses increased by 45 percent this year as compared to the last year, 1679 Mujahideen were martyred and 2572 were

injured during their valiant struggle for freedom. The increase in the losses of Mujahideen is due to New Soviet strategy this year. The Soviets are striking at Mujahideens centers which has also increased the Soviet losses as well. The Soviet soldiers arrested by Mujahideen are more than twice in number, this year 334 soviet troops were captured.

The resistance movement of Afghan people destroyed 57 aircraft and 48 helicopters, which also include the transport planes. During this period of one year Soviet-Karmal army lost 805 tanks and armored vehicles either destroyed or badly damaged. A total of 612 oil tankers and trucks carrying supplies for the occupant army were destroyed by Mujahideen. Moreover, 5716 Afghan soldiers joined Mujahideen with their arms and even eight armored vehicles during the year 953

Karmal troops were captured or surrendered themselves to Mujahideen.

Severe clashes are reported from Qandahar city and the surrounding areas recently. At least 24 Soviet-Karmal troops were killed while five Mujahids were martyred and 11 were wounded.

The sources of Agency Afghan Press reported from Qandahar that the largest clash took place in Arghandab sub division adjacent to the city on northwestern side, where the Mujahideen of Islamic Alliance and the Soviet armored mobile unit came accross each other on December 16. The Soviet mobile unit was on mission to search the Mujahideen in the area. The Mujahideen destroyed one tank and two armored vehicles in a swift attack. At the same time the Soviet helicopter gunships came to help the armored unit. In the air attack the Mujahideen lost their five companions whereas nine others were injured. Due to carpet bombing and strafing, the Mujahideen had to leave their positions for the safe places. Fourteen Soviet military men were killed in this attack.

On the same night in the central part of the Qandahar city the Soviet security post was attacked. Seven Soviet troops were killed and three were

reported to be severely injured. The Mujahideen quit the place before the aid came to the post. Two Mujahids were wounded in the clash.

Next day, on December 17, the Mujahideen attacked one electricity sub station in the western part of the city. Three Karmal troops were killed on the spot while the other eight including their officer abandoned the electricity station and fled away. The Mujahideen took possession of the arms left by the Karmal troops and reached their safe places without any loss. The Mujahideen did not destroy the electricity sub station keeping in view that the electricity was supplied to some of the civilian localities.

Mujahideen Capture 42 Trucks

The Afghan freedom fighters launched a guerilla operation near Ghazni and snatched 42 trucks which had been captured by the Soviet troops for military purposes, sacrificing the life of a Mujahid.

The Agency Afghan Press sources received information that the Mujahideen launched a sudden attack on a military convoy moving along Kabul-Qandhar highway near Ghazni. The convoy boarding 42 trucks, captured from the people, was heading from Herat

towards Ghazni via Qandhar. The trucks were loaded with woolen clothes, diesel generators, motor cycle and wheat. The Mujahideen led by their commander, Ustad Fareed fired rockets and a result of which a tank, three armored vehicles and an army truck were destroyed and also over 30 Soviet soldiers in the trucks were killed. According to the reports the Mujahideen took into custody the goods loaded in the trucks and three army vehicles, while all of the trucks were handed over to their owners. After the guerrilla operation the Mujahideen moved to their destination carrying with them the body of their martyred companion and the army vehicles.

A Mobile Force Ambushed by Mujahideen

According to the reports received from Qandhar, a Mujahid guerrilla group ambushed a mobile military force in Loi Karez area of Spin Buldak sub division where two tanks were destroyed by rocket launcher fires while six crew members were killed.

In the operation four Karmal soldiers were captured along with the arms and ammunition. They were later handed over to court of liberated areas.

Meanwhile, the freedom fighters attacked a security post near Panjwai

town on the morning of December 4 where nine Soviets were killed and a tank was destroyed. The Mujahideen captured 8 Kalashnikov rifles during the attack and returned without suffering any loss.

Deputy Chief of the Islamic Alliance of Afghan Mujahideen stated that Afghan resistance movement had emerged stronger after five years of the Soviet aggression in Afghanistan.

In an interview with (AAP) on the eve of the fifth anniversary of Soviet aggression he said that the history had given verdict in favor of Afghans and Soviet Union had failed to consolidate its administration in Afghanistan, despite all sort of acts of barbarism. He maintained that the Soviets' measures to raise the strength of its troops every year eloquently spoke of their weakness and the strong position of the resistance movement.

He recalled that until 1980 the Afghan Jihad had such meager resources that they could not openly go from one to another village, while at present Mujahideen are running an administration in the vast liberated territories and co-operation of the people of the areas. Thousands of Afghans uprooted from the war-ridden places had taken shelter in these areas.

He enumerated the names of the liberated areas spread in a radius of 60 miles of the capital, Kabul and said these include Kohistan- 1- Kapisa, Tagab, Najrab, Koh-e-Safi, Valley of Surkhab in Logar, a large part of Panjsher Valley and vast areas of Ghor Band Valley lying on the west of Panjsher Valley.

Analysing the war strategy, he maintained this year the Soviets' attacked Mujahideen's large centers which was their strategy. He said the Mujahideen on the other hand; attacked many of the Soviet army camps and cantonments. They had also placed some of the cantonments under siege for months together.

CSO: 4600/247

AFGHANISTAN

REBELS REPORTEDLY DESTROY 3 ARMY POSTS

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 5 Jan 85 p 2

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Fri--Afghan fighters claimed today that they have destroyed three army posts in the Paktia region in three attacks between Dec 21 and 23.

The Afghan Mujahiddin Office here said that during the fights, 46 militiamen were killed and four others injured in attacks on the enemy posts in Jaji Paktia, Mato Rukh and Mergis. Two mujahiddins were wounded.

The mujahiddins also managed to seize a communication set and an assortment of weapons, including a 82mm Havan cannon, two Grinooves, one Kalashinkov and several boxes of ammunition.

Meanwhile, in a fierce midnight onslaught by enemy soldiers and militiamen on the Mujahiddin position in Nerkah County of Maidan province on Dec 25, four enemies were killed and four injured while one was captured.

The mujahiddins, who defended their position for more than 12 hours, also took possession of two RPG-7 rockers.

Later, enemy jets bombed the civilian region and destroyed one house, killing all its occupants, the Mujahiddin Office said.--Bernama

CSO: 4600/257

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

SEMINAR ON REFUGEES--TEHRAN, Jan. 23 (IRNA)--A two-day seminar on the temporary employment of the Afghan refugees in Iran opened here Wednesday with the participation of officials in charge of employment of Afghan refugees. Mohammad Ali Teyrani, deputy minister of labor, commenting on the seminar said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has become a refuge for the oppressed Muslims of the world because it upholds Islamic principles. Therefore, he added, many of the Afghans who have fled their country following the Soviet occupation, are now in Iran. He further told IRNA that the project of providing Afghan refugees with employment opportunities was part of the program formulated for their welfare. The seminar will discuss ways of providing such opportunities, he added. [Text] [Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 24 Jan 85 p 2]

IRAN PROTESTS ALLEGATIONS--TEHRAN, Jan. 19 (IRNA)--The foreign ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran today categorically denied accusations of the Afghan government that Iranian forces had attacked the Kaje Nour region of Afghanistan on Dec. 11, 1984. The foreign ministry termed the accusations as baseless, and said that they were intended to obfuscate the repeated land and air aggressions of Afghan forces against the Islamic Republic's territory. They were also aimed at stirring up anti-Islamic Republic propaganda, the foreign ministry noted. Meanwhile, in a separate incident, the Afghan charge d'affaires to Iran was summoned to the foreign ministry on January 14. He was submitted a letter of protest against allegations by the Kabul government that the Islamic Republic had fomented clashes between a group of Iranians and some Afghans in the villages of Shar-Shara in the Herat border region between the two countries. The protest note termed Kabul's charges against Iran as totally unfounded. [Text] [Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 20 Jan 85 p 2]

AFGHAN RADIO, TV DEVELOPMENT--Construction and installation work on an educational and training radio TV studios began today. The construction work on the studios, which will be carried out by the Department of Construction of the Ministry of Public Works, is due to be completed by the middle of 1364 [Afghan year beginning on 21 March]. A spokesman of the construction department said that with the completion of the educational and training radio TV studios, new changes will occur in the radio TV educational, health, literacy and other similar programs. [Text] [Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Feb 85 LD]

CSO: 4695/2

BANGLADESH

REPORT ON ERSHAD 26 DEC SPEECH IN KHULNA

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 27 Dec 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] Dakop (Khulna) Dec 26--The President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt Gen H.M. Ershad said today that he was firmly committed to establish a sound democratic system in the country, reports BSS.

Addressing a huge public meeting here he listed various steps so far taken by his government for smooth and peaceful transition to democracy.

He said when they took over the responsibility of running the administration of the country they had, among other things, two prime objectives of bringing about a radical change in the socio-economic structure of the country and introduce a stable democratic order. Consequently, a number of reformative measures and epoch making steps had been taken and effected, he said, adding the people had already started reaping the benefits of these measures.

The President said all his programmes were based on improving the lot of the common man as a result of the decentralisation of administration. The rural Bangladesh today was pulsating with development activities and the hitherto deprived people got a new lease of life.

President Ershad said he completed the visit to 301 upazilas with the visit of this upazila today. During the last 33 months he had been visiting the rural areas almost everyday to see for himself the condition of the people there and to know their problems. Now he is in better grip of the problems of the rural poor and taking realistic measures to resolve them.

He said during the last unprecedented floods which engulfed almost the entire country, he visited the affected areas and personally distributed relief materials among the distressed. He commended the combined efforts of the officials, members of the Armed Forces and local body representatives and the people in the successful handling of the relief and rehabilitation operations during the floods.

The President said for the realisation of the second main objective, that is the establishment of real democracy, he had already announced his programmes. As a sequence to this, the union parishad and pourashava elections took place

with spontaneous participation and enthusiasm of the people, he said, adding the office-bearers of these two local body organisations had already started functioning.

National Elections

In regard to the national elections President Ershad said he had announced the schedules thrice. He regretted that despite his sincere efforts for peaceful transition to democracy, some opposition political parties took a negative attitude on one pretext or other. About the latest announcement of holding parliamentary polls, he asserted that this time elections has to be held for the sake of democracy.

Referring to his message to the Armed Forces on the eve of the Victory Day, he said time and again he made it abundantly clear that his commitment to the nation would be fulfilled on the day when an elected government would take over power. He said he firmly believed in redeeming pledges to the nation and there would be no shifting of this in regard to the establishment of democracy.

He urged the opposition political parties to earn the confidence of the people and contest the elections for getting people's verdict in their favour through ballots as there was no known alternative to the elections for transition to democracy.

Workers Pay Doubled

Turning to the recent 48-hour hartal called by SKOP (Sramik Karmachari Okhya Parishad) President Ershad wanted to know as to what could be achieved through indiscipline, lawlessness and bringing miseries to the people. He said it is he who first called for unity among the labourers for safeguarding their genuine interests. The government had already took a number of steps for their welfare and doubled the pay of the workers and employees, he added.

The President, however, regretted and wanted to know what he got in return--hartals and strikes? He had been urging them to increase production in mills and factories which in turn would help change their condition and ensure them a better living, he said, and advised them not to kill the goose that lays golden eggs. Instead they should nourish it to their benefit, he added.

Describing Bangladesh as a land of religious harmony, he said there exists absolutely no discrimination among members of different communities on religious count. "We are all citizens of Bangladesh and this is our land which we must build into a happy and prosperous one through our concerted efforts and hard work.

Vested Property

About vested property, he said the existing laws on it would be suitably amended to ensure that no excess is committed to any one unnecessarily. Provisions would be incorporated in it to guarantee and protect the ownership of legitimate claimants, he said. He reiterated his eager earnestness for religious education as this is one of the best ways to upholding of values.

The President advised the students to engage their time and energy fully in the pursuit of knowledge alone and not to politicking. He said, instead of being misled by interested quarters, they should prepare themselves for shouldering the future responsibilities. He reminded them that 'once this precious time is lost this will never come back.' Students should make sincere endeavours in fulfilling the hopes pinned on them by their parents as well as the nation, he added.

Tk. 50 Lakh for Road

President Ershad, amidst applause, announced a grant of Taka 50 lakh for the construction of the seven-mile-long Bhatiaghata-Dakop road. He also announced grants of Taka two lakh each for the local A.M. College and the Bajua Surendranath College.

In keeping with the declared policy of the government to nationalise one boys and one girls' schools in every upazila, he announced the nationalisation of the local girls school and a grant of Taka one lakh for the local boys school.

He also announced grants of Taka 50 thousand each for the madrassa, mosque and temple at the upazila headquarters. He directed the Upazila Nirbahi Officer to arrange a piece of land for the local freedom fighters where they could construct a centre for them. He announced Taka 20 thousand as grant to build the centre.

The President's speech was punctuated by full throated slogans by the audience expressing their support to his dynamic leadership and solidarity with his people's welfare oriented programmes. A number of local leaders also spoke on the occasion.

On arrival of the upazila headquarters, President Ershad was given a rousing welcome by people from all walks of life including students. School children attired in their best showered flower petals on him and presented him bouquets.

The President was accompanied by the Zonal Martial Law Administrator, Zone-E, Maj Gen Sadequr Rahman Chowdhury.

Attends Re-union

Earlier, President Ershad attended the first annual reunion function of the army Services Corps at the Jahanabad Cantonment at Khulna.

Speaking on the occasion the President, who is also Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, termed the members of the Armed Forces as the ever-vigilant sentinels of the hard earned independence and sovereignty. He recalled the glorious role of the members of the Armed Forces during our War of Independence and asked them to uphold their glorious tradition.

The President said as the sons of the soil, they had responsibility to contribute their mite to the service of the nation.

Present among others were the Home Minister, Maj Gen Abdul Mannan Siddiqui, Local Area Commander and Colonel Commandant of the Corps Maj Gen Sadequr Rahman Chowdhury and retired officers and men of the Service Corps.

President Ershad also formally opened the local public school. In his brief speech there, he underscored the importance of spreading the light of education to every nook and corner of the country. The President announced a grant of Taka two lakh for the development and extension of the school.

CSO: 4600/1254

BANGLADESH

UNITED PEOPLE'S PARTY LEADERS CONSIDER POLL TERMS

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 27 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] The meeting of the national committee of the United People's Party ended on Wednesday called upon all democratic forces to take a positive and effective role in replacing the present military government by a representative government to fulfil the aspirations of the people.

The meeting observed that the people neither wanted continuation of Martial law nor desire that the nation be pushed to a civil war or its sovereignty jeopardised.

Presided over by the party Chairman Kazi Zafar Ahmed, the meeting described the President's December 15 declaration as a positive step and said that it had opened the door for the significant victory of the five-point demand.

The meeting called upon the government to make the scheduled parliamentary poll meaningful taking certain steps for creating conducive atmosphere.

In this context, the party demanded removal of confusion in the minds of the people regarding the neutrality of President Ershad and his government in the poll, clarification regarding restoration of limited fundamental rights and reinstatement of Writ Jurisdiction and taking of effective steps for the implementation of the same opportunity of appeal for those convicted under martial law, implementation of the accord reach with SKOP and compensation to affected families of those killed in Rajshahi firing on Saturday.

The meeting said that if the government went for implementation of the President's declaration and fulfil the demands raised by the party, all democratic forces should take part in the poll.

The meeting observed that the growing national and international problems faced by the country could be squarely dealt by a representative government.

CSO: 4600/1254

INDIA

G.K. REDDY REPORTS ON PROBLEMS WITH SRI LANKA

Patrol Craft Seized

Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Jan 85 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 11--The Government of India has lodged another strong protest with the Sri Lankan Government through its acting High Commissioner in Delhi against his latest violation of the country's territorial waters by Sri Lankan gunboats which have been repeatedly firing on Indian fishermen.

An official spokesman, giving the bare details of the incident, said that the coordinates of the point at which the Sri Lankan Naval boat had been intercepted were 90 degrees 23.6 minutes north and 79 degrees 26.8 minutes east which meant that the captured vessel was apprehended four kilometres within Indian territorial waters when it was firing in the direction of the Indian fishing boats in the vicinity around 6-30 a.m.

There were fortunately no casualties since the Sri Lankan Naval boat, a relatively small patrol craft with a displacement of about 40 tonnes, did not resist interception by the much bigger Indian Coast Guard ship, described as an inshore Patrol Vessel (IPV) in the range of 160 tonnes deadweight, with much heavier weapons. The Indian vessel chased the fleeing Sri Lankan boat and secured its compliance with the order to follow to Mandapam, without firing even warning shots.

Exclusive economic zone: The 1976 Maritime Act which came into effect on January 14, 1977 had extended India's exclusive economic zone up to 320 km. But limited the territorial waters to a little less than 20 km. Any intrusion by foreign vessels into these territorial waters without permission is an offence under this Act. But foreign warships enjoy by convention the right of innocent passage through territorial waters after giving advance information about their movements.

In the present case the Sri Lankan violation amounts to a serious transgression of both Indian laws and the country's offshore jurisdiction, since its naval patrol boats have been repeatedly entering Indian territorial

waters and opening fire. A number of Indian fishing boats have been sunk and many fishermen had been killed or wounded by them.

It remains to be seen how the Government of India is going to handle this episode, whether it would let off the captured Sri Lankan boat and its seven-member crew with a stern warning or let Indian coastal laws take their course by registering a case against them.

There are only two Indian patrol vessels operating in this area, one a naval craft and the other a Coast Guard boat--since the intention is not to seek an armed confrontation with the Sri Lankan gunboats but provide enough reassurance to Indian fishermen. The navy or Coast Guard cannot use any bigger ships in this area which is rather shallow with many uncharted sea lanes other than the main passage across the Palk Strait which cannot be used even by medium cargo ships requiring a deeper passage.

The Indian Coast Guard whose primary duty is to prevent smuggling across the Palk Strait has been asked to step up its vigilance only after the recent incidents. It has reason to believe that the Sri Lankan patrol boat captured today was perhaps the same vessel that had been intruding into Indian territorial waters frequently and opening fire on Indian fishermen.

The seriousness with which the prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi has been viewing the Sri Lanka situation is evident from the fact that in his current round of talks individually with senior Opposition leaders like Mr Jagjivan Ram and Mr L.K. Advani, he had sought their cooperation in tackling not only problems like Punjab and Assam but also the Tamil question as a matter of national importance.

Sri Lanka's statement: The Sri Lankan High Commission in Delhi issued a statement tonight claiming that one of the naval vessels patrolling the island's territorial waters had been apprehended by an Indian Coast Guard vessel when it was performing its legitimate duties within the country's jurisdiction. The statement said that Sri Lanka naval patrol craft 448 had sighted some Indian fishing trawlers and an Indian Coast Guard vessel at 6-30 a.m.

The Indian Coast Guard vessel had signalled the Sri Lankan patrol craft to come alongside which it did after informing the naval authorities in Colombo and that nothing further had been heard from it. The first official intimation that the Sri Lankan Naval authorities had about its capture was when the Indian Naval Attache in Colombo had informed them about it.

New Tensions Reported

Madras THE HINDU in English 13 Jan 85 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 12--The Tamil problem in Sri Lanka is getting internationalised in one form or the other with many countries privately voicing their concern over the mounting carnage while expressing the hope that a lasting political solution would be found soon.

The latest one to take a direct interest in exploring the possibilities of an early accord is the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Mr Sridath Ramphal, who has been in touch with the Sri Lanka President, Mr J.R. Jayewardene, although he has not yet informed the Government of India of his efforts.

It was stated by those dealing with the Sri Lanka crisis from the Indian side that they knew nothing about Mr Ramphal's initiative while it is highly unlikely that he would make any approach to Mr Jayewardene without satisfying himself that India would not be averse to it. A spokesman of the Commonwealth Secretariat in London is reported to have confirmed that Mr Ramphal had been in touch with the Sri Lankan Government although he did not indicate precisely what he wanted to do to ease the situation.

The big powers, including the United States and the Soviet Union, have been urging Mr Jayewardene from time to time to settle the Tamil problem. The U.S. declined to supply arms to Sri Lanka for fighting the Tamil extremists but it has not put enough pressure on Mr Jayewardene to concede a reasonable measure of autonomy to satisfy the Tamil aspirations. The Soviet Union, on the other hand, has been scrupulously avoiding any involvement other than expressing the hope that the issue would be settled soon.

But some other Western powers have been selling arms, including patrol boats and even allowing their nationals to be recruited as mercenaries to train the Sri Lankan army and police in anti-insurgency operations. The Israeli Government went one step further and made its Mossad specialists available for this purpose.

It is too early yet to visualise whether the Commonwealth Secretary-General would succeed in persuading the Sri Lanka President to utilise India's good offices for starting a fresh dialogue with the Tamil leaders before feelings harden further in the wake of the continuing violence.

But one of the suggestions being made by some others is that Mr Jayewardene should seek an early meeting with the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, for a free and frank discussion of what both countries could do to bring about an amicable settlement of this ethnic problem.

TULF leaders meet G.P.

The three top leaders of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF)--Mr M. Sivasithamparam, Mr A. Amrithalingam and Mr A. Sampanthan--had a long meeting today with the Chairman of the Policy Planning Committee in the External Affairs Ministry. Mr G. Parthasarathi, discussing various possibilities for a new dialogue with the Sri Lankan Government. They have come to Delhi with a plea from their politburo for "effective action" by India to save the Tamil community from indiscriminate killings and intimidation by the Sri Lankan armed forces.

The TULF leaders are due to meet the Prime Minister before returning to Madras. But it is highly unlikely that there would be any new moves from the Indian side before the ground has been prepared for a resumption of its good offices.

The latest incidents in the Palk Bay involving loss of Indian lives followed by the capture of a Sri Lankan patrol boat in Indian waters yesterday have stepped up the tensions and until these unfortunate events are out of the way it would be difficult to calm down the ruffled tempers on either side. The Government of India will seek assurances that there would be no repetition of such violations of its territorial waters before releasing the captured patrol boat and its crew as requested by the Sri Lankan Government.

PTI reports:

The former Sri Lanka Prime Minister and Freedom Party leader, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike on Friday charged that harmless Tamils were being killed or harassed in the name of terrorism.

"The terrorists often get away and simple people suffer, particularly the Tamil youth," she said.

Sri Lanka Demands

Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Jan 85 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 13--The Sri Lanka Government has demanded that the naval patrol boat P-448 seized last Friday inside Indian waters be returned immediately along with its crew. It claimed that since the offending vessel belonged to the Sri Lanka Navy, it should be deemed immune from the jurisdiction of the Indian authorities, as it was a vessel of the State.

The Sri Lanka Foreign Minister, Mr A.C.S. Hameed, summoned the acting Indian High Commissioner, Mr K.R. Sinha, today to press for its release in accordance with international law and practice.

But he was deliberately blurring the distinction between a warship being apprehended while it is on innocent passage through a country's territorial waters, and a prowling patrol boat repeatedly violating this jurisdiction and opening fire on Indian fishermen. International law and practice do not provide immunity to foreign naval craft engaged in such brigandage.

If India releases the boat and crew, it will be only as a gesture of goodwill towards a neighbouring country and not as a matter of its right to claim immunity for its naval personnel guilty of such depredations.

PRC Minister to Sri Lanka

Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Jan 85 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 13--The Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr Wu Xiuquan will be visiting Sri Lanka in the last week of this month in the course of a goodwill trip to some South Asian countries to strengthen China's links with them.

The visit to Sri Lanka would not have aroused any special interest in Delhi had it not been for the fact that Mr Wu would be arriving in Colombo in the midst of the current crisis in the island over the Tamil problem.

But the Chinese Government has made known that it has no intention of taking any sides in this unfortunate ethnic tangle, that its main interest lay in an amicable settlement of the Tamil problem in the larger interests of Sri Lanka and peace in the region.

When the Sri Lankan President, Mr J.R. Jayewardene sent his brother to Beijing after the 1983 killings of Tamils to explain his stand on the ethnic question, the Chinese leaders had advised him to seek a political settlement of the Tamil problem. They have been scrupulously avoiding any entanglement in this unfortunate problem which might strain Sino-India relations.

So the Government of India is not unduly concerned about Mr Wu's impending visit to Colombo, although it will be interested to know what advice he would give Mr Jayewardene and his Foreign Minister, Mr A.C.S. Hameed, if they raise the Tamil problem with him. It has, however, no reason to believe that the Chinese leader is going to say anything that might be detrimental to Sino-India relations.

Timing of visit

But what is of special interest to political observers here is the timing of Mr Wu's visit to South Asia at this juncture on the eve of the 30th anniversary of the Bandung conference. Though China and Indonesia have not yet resumed the diplomatic relations broken off 16 years ago, the

Suharto Government is expected to extend an invitation to Beijing to participate in this commemoration conference.

It remains to be seen at what level China is going to be represented, since Prince Norodom Sihanouk is expected to attend it as head of the rival Kampuchean Government. The Chinese have stepped up their diplomatic effort to muster enough support for Prince Sihanouk at this conference and, as one of the major participants in the 1955 Bandung conference, Sri Lanka will be playing a prominent part at the 30th anniversary celebrations.

It is not without significance that the Chinese Foreign Minister would be visiting Bangkok on his way to Colombo since Thailand continues to support the Sihanouk regime actively both as a neighbouring country and also as a member of the Association of South-East Asian Nations. Another important participant in the 1955 Bandung conference was Pakistan, which was invited at India's insistence to bring it more actively into the Afro-Asian community at a time when it was leaning heavily on the West as an active member of the U.S. sponsored military pacts.

Second thoughts

There seem to be some second thoughts in Delhi on the desirability of the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, attending the Bandung conference in the midst of the Parliament session. It is more likely that somebody else will represent India unless President Suharto persuades him to make a quick trip even for a day or two as a symbol of India's close association with that historic event.

A number of aid-giving Western countries which have no political involvement in the region like the Big Powers have also been privately urging Sri Lanka to settle the Tamil problem soon. These countries which have been deploring the continued bloodshed in Sri Lanka and the consequent souring of its relations with India hope that the two Governments would sort out the latest episode concerning the capture of the Sri Lankan naval patrol boat by the Indian coast guard following its violation of the country's coastal jurisdiction.

CSO: 4600/1308

INDIA

BUSINESS COMMUNITY HAS HIGH EXPECTATIONS OF RAJIV

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 31 Dec 84 p 10

[Text] Bombay, December 30--The landslide victory for the Congress (I) party headed by Mr Rajiv Gandhi in the 8th Lok Sabha elections has raised high hopes in the business community. The decisive result is expected to bring certainty, stability and solidarity to the country.

Trade and industry circles feel that the government under the leadership of Mr Gandhi will encourage greater involvement of the private sector in resolving the complex problems being faced by the country. A more pragmatic approach to economic problems in general and participation of the private sector along with the public sector in particular is expected.

No doubt the country is faced with numerous problems, social and economic. The business community, however, feels that it should not be difficult for the country to solve these problems with the pragmatic approach expected to be adopted by Mr Gandhi.

Given the need for primacy of stability of the present polity, they do not foresee a major departure from the progressive changes being contemplated in the areas of economic and industrial policies. Three critical areas are being mentioned, namely prices, balance of payments and infrastructure, and the role of business and administrative machinery in guiding them.

The increasing gap between the growth rate of real national income and gross national expenditure indicates the extent of imbalance between aggregate demand and aggregate supply in the economy. It is this increasing imbalance that has led to the persistence of inflation in the Indian economy.

It is felt that even if the economy continues to grow at 5 percent per annum and the growth of money supply which is the nearest surrogate to gross national expenditure, is pegged at a conservative growth level of 14 percent per annum for the next two years, then the anticipated average rate of inflation will be around 9 percent for the period 1985-86 and 1986-87. Some minor adjustments in the figure might be necessary depending on the progress of the monsoon--whether it turns out to be good or deficient.

Public Sector Productivity

In this context, it is felt that the rate of increase in government expenditure needs to be kept under severe check. A continuation of the earlier IMF prompted discipline on deficit financing will have to be continued. It will be necessary to improve the marginal efficiency of productivity of a rupee of government expenditure. The money spent in the current year as well as earlier years should be linked to the ultimate flow of goods and services in the economy. Instead of spreading resources thin across a large number of products and thereby underfinancing each one of them, it would be better to be selective in giving priority to projects. The unfinished or ongoing projects should be completed first before taking up new ones.

As is known, the productivity in the public sector leaves much to be desired. Efforts to augment productivity in the public sector units like steel, power, fertilizer and coal need to be given top most priority. Instead of vague exhortations, targets need to be fixed in consultation with the units and strictly adhered to. Mr Gandhi has already indicated that a reward and punishment mechanism will be introduced. It is hoped that action will be taken soon in this regard.

The government has been following a well-articulated buffer stock policy for food grains. Although releases from the public distribution system can exert a moderate influence on prices, such a policy will have to be balanced with the cost of locking up too much capital in an unnecessarily high inventory.

The sickness in industry has been growing. To reverse the epidemic of industrial sickness, there is an urgent need for a complete overhaul of industrial regulations relating to growth.

It is felt that in case of any shortage and subsequent rise in price of any commodity, there should be the emphasis on measures that augment production rather than to clamp abnormal price restrictions.

In the field of industry it is necessary to improve productivity and capacity utilisation and thereby add to the supply of goods. This, in turn, can contribute significantly to holding the price line. Any attempt to create artificial shortages must be mercilessly penalised. At the same time, trade unions who unlawfully flout laws and extort abnormal wages should be dealt with firmly. In short, the government will have to demonstrate its ability to give the economy a forward thrust in a powerful and an unambiguous manner.

Protectionism pursued by many countries is posing a problem to many industries in the country. The new import-export policy to be announced by the end of the current financial year will thus be awaited with keen interest. The government has already taken some steps to open up domestic industry to competition and new technology. Although the business community had initially some misgivings over the liberal import policy, it has now

realised the beneficial impact of such a policy. While permitting investments by multinationals, safeguards will have to be provided.

Sick Units

The policy of the government towards sick units so far has been to prop up such units on socio-economic considerations. A firm policy decision in this regard will have to be taken soon--whether to allow such units to die a natural death or to inject fresh life with heavy financial investments.

The government will have to take some hard policy decisions about the nature of the forthcoming Union budget. Both, the business community and the ordinary people will await the changes that are likely to be made in the taxation structure.

It is generally expected that the process of rationalisation of the tax structure will be carried further to make taxes an instrument for dynamic growth in the country.

The government will have to tackle the problem of balance of payments deficit in the next few years. As things stand today, the trade gap in the next two years is expected to widen and once the IMF loan repayment starts in 1985-86, the foreign exchange reserves will also start depleting. Thus, the debt servicing ratio might go up from 13 percent by 1986-87. Moreover, India will have to face the reality of declining aid prospects. Given this scenario, both imports as well as exports will have to be monitored carefully as a first step and secondly, measures more purposeful than managing exportable surpluses will have to be devised.

Import savings through higher domestic production has become imperative. The success achieved in the case of petroleum crude in this regard will have to be extended to fields like edible oils, fertilisers and certain foodgrains like pulses. Detailed sectoral plans for augmenting production in each of these areas and a regular monitoring of progress by the administration, along with private trade and industry can go a long way in achieving success in this field. In a crucial area like edible oil, selective entry of private sector industry can be encouraged.

Selective exports of agricultural commodities needs to be taken up seriously both by the government and the industry. Agricultural items having both comparative advantage and good market abroad can be identified.

In a world of changing trade practices, Indian trading houses can be allowed to rise above the present constraints and actively participate in various counter trade and swap deals even if that involves canalised items formerly earmarked for the STC and the MMTC.

The country quota restrictions by the EEC and the USA will have to be professionally as well as politically confronted to gain advantages to India, especially in view of the progressive reduction of cheap credit

availability. Bilateral trade between India and other third world countries, especially Africa and South America needs to be given a boost.

The infrastructural inadequacies will have to be corrected in certain sectors like power, coal and movement of goods by the railways. The overall deficit in power supply in relation to the estimated requirement is placed at around 11 percent. Even if the planned additions to capacity over the next two years materialise, it is unlikely that the deficit would come down significantly. The basic thrust of improvement in power supply will have to come from thermal power plants since hydel projects depend on the monsoon for water in the catchment areas. Efforts will have to be made to improve the plant load factor through better maintenance and improvement in the quality of coal supply. Steps will be necessary to ensure an increase in quantity and improvement in quality of coal produced.

Although the railways have been able to show visible improvement in their performance, the sustenance of such a performance in the next two years must not be taken for granted. The shortfall in the electrified track, track renewal and wagons might have a snowballing effect in the next two years. It might, therefore, be necessary to give priority to fresh investments in railways and completion of on-going projects on schedule.

The trading community is awaiting the initiative of the Central government in respect of replacement of the sales tax with excise duty. The Prime Minister has already indicated that the Centre would persuade the state governments to cooperate in meeting the long standing demand of the trade.

The Prime Minister has already appointed three committees to assess the situation. These committees are expected to submit their reports shortly so that they could prove useful in formulating new policies. Some working groups of experts are proposed to be set up immediately to suggest policy measures in terms of the Party's election promises in alleviating poverty. After the formation of the new Cabinet, the Prime Minister is expected to enunciate the policy guidelines in a broadcast to the nation which will be keenly awaited.

CSO: 4600/1272

INDIA

ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN ECONOMY CRITICIZED

New Delhi DINMAN in Hindi 30 Dec 84-5 Jan 85 pp 29-30

[Reputed economist Prof Raj Krishna interviewed by Jitendra Gupta; place and date not specified]

[Text] If we were to divide the state of the economy into different segments then we could arrive at certain desired conclusions. For example, if we were to look at a few, select statistics of our economic development, then it could be said that in comparison to America, the world's wealthiest nation, India is progressing rapidly. This is the message conveyed by the election posters of the Congress (I) party. These types of claims do not tell you that the amount of food required to satisfy the needs of a well-fed, contented person is not even sufficient to serve as tiffin for a poor man engaged in manual labor. And, no heed is given to the effect that such claims may have on people living below the poverty line.

In contrast, if a different set of statistics and analytical methods are employed, as those used by the reputed economist, Prof Raj Krishna of the Delhi School of Economics, then a different picture emerges. If we go by his argument, the Indian economy can be likened to a fortress on whose means and resources the leaders and bureaucracy have such a grip that it is not likely to promote the rate of economic growth. Nationalization and the red tape involved in obtaining licenses and permits inhibit the extent of production. How is it so? This is best answered by the economist himself.

[Question] After the results of the Lok Sabha [lower house of Parliament] elections, a new government will be formed. In your opinion, what should be the top priorities of the new government in the economic sphere?

[Answer] I do not believe that a change in government will bring about any significant changes in the country's economic situation. The ratio between the rate of increase in income and the corresponding increase in the level of poverty is likely to remain unchanged.

[Question] What is the reason for this?

[Answer] The statistics that are indicators of our economic development have, for the past 28 years, remained fairly constant, and also at a level

that is far from satisfactory. Out of these, two statistics are of the utmost importance. One is the rate of increase in national income, and the other is the ratio of poverty.

The rate of increase in national income for the past 25-30 years has remained constant at 3.5 percent annually. As the rate of increase in population has remained steady at 2.2 percent, the per capita income has only increased by 1.4 percent annually. This rate of increase is less than the annual increase in per capita income of 55 other developing countries. This means that in terms of the rate of increase in per capita income, India ranks fifty-sixth among the developing nations. This is why we cannot boast about the rate of our economic development.

[Question] With which Asian nations would you like to compare India?

[Answer] In the last 20 years, the rate of increase in per capita income in China has remained constant at five percent. I have estimated that if the rates of increase in per capita income remain at the present levels, then by the year 2000 the per capita income in India will not exceed \$325 whereas, the per capita income in China would possibly have risen to \$800. If we compare India to some other Asian nations then we are faced with even greater frustrations. There are some Asian nations that in the year 2000 will have attained a per capita income level of \$2,000.

The comparison with China is particularly relevant, as soon after India's independence and the revolution in China the per capita income of both countries was approximately the same. But now, the per capita income in China is \$310 (in 1982) and ours is only \$260 (in 1982). The rate of increase in per capita income in China has been four times that of India.

[Question] You were saying something about the ratio of poverty, too?

[Answer] Yes, the other important indicating aspect is the ratio of poverty. Statistics are available from 1961 to 1978. According to those figures, 56 percent of the population was below the poverty line. Since 1961, there has been no increase or decrease in this percentage. During the same period the population has continued to increase. That is why, according to the Planning Commission, 340 million people or 70 million families were below the poverty line in 1980. In other words, they did not even receive Rs.2.50 daily on a per capita basis in 1980.

The statistics of 1961-1978 also reveal a yearly increase of at least 3.7 million people in the ranks of the poor. When, during the course of six 5-year plans, changes in the prime ministership and Planning Commissions of different administrations have neither brought about an increase in the rate of national income or a decrease in the ratio of poverty, I cannot foresee any changes in these two indicators resulting from a change in government.

[Question] Isn't there any means of breaking out of this vicious cycle?

[Answer] I feel that is very difficult. The reason for this is that our present situation, as indicated by these statistics, has its origins in the disparity that afflicts our main social classes. The major portion of the increase in national income is seized by the capitalists, large-scale farmers, leaders and the bureaucracy. A very minor portion of that increase in income goes to the poor.

Production levels have continued to decline in those areas that have been nationalized. Government-run industries suffer a yearly loss of millions of rupees; this loss is compensated by levying substantial new taxes. Despite capital investment on a grand scale, these industries are unable to supply in entirety the basic amenities of production--such as coal, electricity and transportation--to industries in the private sector. That is why the rate of industrial development is slow.

In the name of socialism, numerous regulations have been imposed on industry and trade. These regulations also restrict the rate of industrial growth. Some regulations are essential for development and the benefit of society, but excessive controls have hindered economic progress.

[Question] When these regulations are a hindrance to progress then why are they not abolished?

[Answer] The extensive reliance on nationalization and regulatory controls does not benefit society, but rather it serves to promote the self-interests of 16.4 million members of the leadership and the bureaucracy. The second source of income (which is the main income) of this group of people is far greater than their first source of income. The excessive ill-use of government-run industries and regulations serves as a vehicle to funnel this second source of income. That is why I do not believe that the new leadership, whose need for money is even greater than that of the previous leadership, will bring about any fundamental changes in the present system.

[Question] In the context of poverty, how would you assess the importance of the Green Revolution?

[Answer] The rate of progress in the agricultural sector has been satisfactory and growth there has been at the rate of 2.6 percent annually, which is greater than the rate of increase in the population (2.2 percent). That is why, on a national level, we have become self-sufficient in food. The government has stored approximately 20 million tons of food in its warehouses. In spite of this, at least one-fourth of the population does not even receive the equivalent of 2,200 calories of food intake. This does not mean that there is no grain in the country, but rather that the poorer segments of the population are without a livelihood; they do not have the purchasing power to procure adequate nourishment.

The problem of hunger in our country is now no longer a problem of hunger per se, but rather a different manifestation of the problem of poverty.

Viewing it from this angle, to me the economic picture for next year or the next five years appears no different from that of last year or the last five years. I can only hope that my pessimistic projections are proved wrong.

[Question] Doesn't the record import of edible oils prove the unsatisfactory nature of the Green Revolution?

[Answer] We have not made desired progress in the cultivation of pulses and oil-seeds. There are two viewpoints for this. Scientists tell us that they have discovered the technical means of increasing the yield of these crops, whereas the government and farmers say that they have not yet acquired the technical know-how whereby the production of pulses and oil-seeds could benefit to the same extent as that of grain.

[Question] If a decision is made to increase the productivity of public enterprises, then how should the government tackle the problem?

[Answer] In my opinion, two policies are essential. One, the ownership of these public industries should rest with the government but responsibility for day-to-day management should lie in the hands of professionally qualified managers. The running of sophisticated industries is beyond the scope of the bureaucracy.

Second, the Dagli Committee has already made certain recommendations regarding industrial regulations, and the Narsinh Committee is considering them. In accordance with the solutions advocated by these committees, it is essential to abolish unnecessary regulations. But it appears to me that the existing conditions will not undergo any fundamental changes. The strong grip of these regulatory controls cannot be so readily removed, as the second and major source of income for the leaders and the bureaucracy is dependent upon the continuity of these conditions.

[Question] How can programs to abolish poverty be made more effective?

[Answer] Primary importance should be given to putting an end to corruption that is widespread in programs directed at eradicating poverty; but who is to fight against the leaders and the institutionalized bureaucracy? One thing can certainly be said, and that is if the poor people could form organizations--such as unions--then they would be in a position to procure greater benefits from village developmental projects. Right now, development authorities, bank officials, and influential villagers, in coordination with one another, pocket millions of rupees allocated for these programs.

Organizing the poor people will prove beneficial. I am saying this because there are between 100 to 200 districts in the country where Marxists, idealists, Gandhians and the missionaries have organized the poor. There the poor have derived the maximum benefit from development projects. There is no dearth of resources in the country; but in order that these programs be effective, organization of the poor is essential.

[Question] When grain reserves became excessive the government initiated talk of grain exports. What objection can there be to the export of grain?

[Answer] In order to meet the needs of shops that sell grain at controlled prices, the government need not keep more than 16 million tons of grain in reserve. If the grain reserves exceed this amount then the grain should be put to use in a "food-for-work" program so that jobs are created for the villagers and hunger is reduced.

When the Janata government was in power, they utilized as much as 2.5 million tons of grain every year to create a food-for-work program, and they did this in a fairly unselfish manner. But in the last four years, even though grain reserves have been plentiful, no more than 0.5 million tons have been diverted toward this program. When we can eradicate unemployment and hunger by the straightforward utilization of excess grain, then it is absolutely wrong to use it for export.

In relation to this there is another important factor. Despite the fact that national grain reserves are at the level of 15 to 20 million tons, we have been importing grain in recent years. This leads us to suspect that the grain reserve statistics are false. It is possible that there is a discrepancy of 5 million tons. It is said that for the past 10 to 15 years the Auditor General has not inspected the grain warehouses.

We have already seen that when Coal India's newly-appointed head, M.S. Gujral, inspected the coal reserves, 4 million tons of coal were not even there. They were only figures in the books, therefore 600 million rupees worth of coal had to be written off. It seems that in the same way, if a strict inspection of the reserves of the Food Corporation were to be carried out, 5 million tons of grain would be found to be missing. If statistics on national grain reserves are correct, we would not need to import even one ton of grain.

12398

CSO: 4624/5

INDIA

MIZO LEADER EXPRESSES DESIRE FOR RECONCILIATION

New Delhi DINMAN in Hindu 30 Dec 84-5 Jan 85 pp 31-32

[Interview with Laldenga, Mizo leader, by Jasvinder; date and place not specified]

[Text] When the dust settles after the elections, it is hoped that Mr Laldenga will sign a pact with the central government and join forces with the Congress party. He is expected to dismantle his guerrilla army after that. However, if all rebel Mizo soldiers do not surrender, then Laldenga will not be able to rule in Aizawl. We welcome Laldenga's efforts to join Congress and start peaceful negotiations. Having pursued his dream of a "free Mizoram" for a quarter of a century, he is finally walking on solid ground and is ready to abide by the Indian Constitution.

In 1947, leaders of Christian majority Mizo tribes decided to join India instead of following Fizo's Mizoram slogan. The situation, however, changed over the next 10 or 12 years. The Nagas were disappointed and angry when timely help was not provided to them during a drought. Some people established a new political party called Mizo Mukti Morcha (Mizo Liberation Front). Laldenga, who was a district council employee at that time, helped organize this front and then became its president. This party decided to take up arms and obtain help from Pakistan. He served 2 years in Assam jails and was released in 1964. He migrated to Pakistan soon after that. In 1966, he declared the establishment of "independent Mizoram" and started a reign of violence and terror on a large scale. The hilly terrain and the support of local people proved his greatest advantage.

The Mizo Union, which supported peaceful negotiations, finally achieved a big victory in 1971 when Mizoram was declared a central territory. Until then it was a backward district of Assam Province. This development and the establishment of Bangladesh left the rebel subdued for some time.

After revamping some of his forces, Laldenga opened talks with the government in 1974. He bargained off and on without any concrete results. The first agreement of 1976 failed because Laldenga wanted immediate chief ministership of the state. His talks with the Janata government broke down even before they began. The question of his chief ministership

was not solved in 1980, either. Now in 1984, this issue will be solved. The present chief minister is willing to resign in favor of Laldenga provided he is given chairmanship of the legislative council.

Mr Laldenga is trying to demonstrate his sincerity by endorsing the Congress party and expressing his desire to join it. We should trust him to an extent because our past experience has not been very happy. Laldenga can be crowned in Aizawl only when armed rebels surrender and those who do not are taken to task. Perhaps later, depending on Laldenga's performance, Mizoram may be given the status of a province.

Laldenga's talks with Jasvinder are given below.

[Question] How successful were your talks with the Indian Government?

[Answer] Both sides have declared a cease-fire. After this month-long talk, we understand each other much better and have agreed on about 15 points. Only a few more issues that require personal (smiling) guidance of the prime minister are left.

[Question] You have expressed faith in having fully successful talks this time. Any specific reason for this optimism?

[Answer] The main reason is the desire for an agreement on both sides. There have been no roadblocks in our talks so far. It appears that both sides are ready to join forces to put out the 20-year-old fire in Mizoram.

[Question] You were invited by Mrs Gandhi for talks. Could her absence cause any problem in these talks?

[Answer] Mrs Gandhi's assassination did set us back. She was personally aware of our problems and sincerely sought a permanent solution for them.

[Question] But peace talks have failed when Indira Gandhi was present.

[Answer] That was a different situation. Mizoram was ruled by Brigadier Sailo's party at that time, and my demand was that he should be replaced by a new working government. At that time, Mrs Gandhi said in Parliament that, "Since Brigadier Sailo is not connected with the Congress party, we cannot dismiss his government." Times have changed and Sailo has nothing to do with the government now.

[Question] You are accused of not being serious about the last talks.

[Answer] It is not true. I would not have come to Delhi and risked the lives of my family and myself if I were not serious about those talks. Not only that, but I had also to break all foreign ties when I agreed to talk under the Indian Constitution.

[Question] Later, your supporters broke the cease-fire, did they not?

[Answer] After the talks broke down, the Indian Government enforced the Illegal Activities Act again and arrested 50 to 70 of my men. I had no means of communicating with my people that the talks had failed.

[Question] But how did it happen after you had signed the treaty?

[Answer] The rumor that I signed a pact after 1976 is unfounded and was spread by vested interests. There was no such pact between the Mizo National Front and the Indian Government.

Actually, this conspiracy was hatched by Home Minister Khurana, Assistant Secretary Kampani and Mizoram's Lieutenant Governor Chhibber. These three participated in that so-called pact. They knew that the talks had failed but slyly informed the press that we had signed a pact. They wanted to hide their failure and invented this vicious lie. Had I been wrong or treacherous, the Indian Government would never have invited me for talks again.

[Question] Why were you arrested after the 1976 talks?

[Answer] The government had promised that I would be allowed to return home even when the talks failed. However, when Mrs Gandhi was pushed out of the government in 1977, the Janata government refused to recognize this pact. I was arrested and put with common criminals in a 'C' class cell in Tihar jail. I shared my cell with Mohammad Maqbool Bhatt, who was later hung. Bail for my release was accepted in 1980 when Janata fell. Mrs Gandhi had expressed sympathy over the treatment given to me.

[Question] What is the main reason for the Mizo revolution?

[Answer] The main reason is that no representation was given to Mizoram in the Indian Constitution. No Mizoram representative was present in the 1935 and 1952 constitutional assemblies (he showed me a copy of the 1935 constitution, which said, "The governor of Assam appointed by the viceroy of India will also represent the hilly areas of Lushai.") We have no representation in government or the armed forces.

[Question] Do you accept the Indian Constitution now?

[Answer] I have accepted the Indian Constitution on condition that there will be some kind of pact. I want a solution to this problem.

[Question] You have mentioned breaking ties with some foreign governments. Which foreign powers have been helping you?

[Answer] I cannot drag any foreign government that sympathized with our cause at one time into the mud. It is past history, anyway.

[Question] It is said that you have lost influence over the Mizo National Front and the Mizo National Army. Will these parties accept a pact signed by you?

[Answer] (Laughing loudly) That is silly. I have the full support of the Mizo people even now. An agreement signed by me will be accepted by all parties and by every individual.

[Question] Did you support Congress (I) in the recent Mizoram elections?

[Answer] At that time, representatives of both Mizo Conference and Mizo Congress (I) visited me in London. I gave a taped copy of my speech to Lalduhavma, president of Mizoram Congress (I). Mr Lalduhavma is the first member of Parliament from Mizoram who won uncontested. On listening to my taped speech, the people of Mizoram believed that Congress (I) was serious about solving Mizoram's problems. That was the reason for Congress' victory in Mizoram.

[Question] Is it possible that after the formal agreement you will join Congress (I)?

[Answer] Maybe, if we have an agreement. Actually, I am not against any other political party. At present, I want to concentrate on this problem only.

[Question] Why are you so confident this time?

[Answer] I believe that the Indian Government understands the problems of the Mongol people in northeast India. These people have always lived in an atmosphere of fear and violence. The hills of Lushai want peace now. All they want is that the Indian Constitution recognize their unique needs so this area can prosper.

[Question] Your organization has been accused of helping the underground armies of the Tripura National Volunteers and the Nagaland Peoples Liberation Army. Please explain.

[Answer] The government has asked us to stop helping the terrorists in Tripura. I accepted this demand even though we have never helped the terrorists in Tripura. However, all groups in the northwestern region help each other. To create a harmonious atmosphere, I have agreed not to help any organization.

[Question] What is your opinion about the structure of the Indian Union?

[Answer] It needs reorganization. I have lived in London for a long time and had the opportunity to study the structure and functions of several democratic governments. I support the incorporation of the good points of those governments into the Indian Constitution. However, I have not completed my studies of all ideological aspects.

[Question] Will you discuss ways and means of rehabilitating your guerrilla comrades after your agreement with the Indian Government?

[Answer] The Indian Government is already working on such plan. Our friends who have been wandering in the jungles for years need psychological and emotional help in addition to financial aid. It is like a postwar problem of rehabilitation and reconstruction.

[Question] It appears that by our next meeting you will be the chief minister of Mizoram.

[Answer] (Laughing and shaking hands) Pray to God and ask Him to bless me.

7977

CSO: 4624/6

INDIA

RAJIV SPEAKS ON ELECTION AS CONGRESS-I LEADER

Madras THE HINDU in English 1 Jan 85 p 10

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 31--The Congress (I) Parliamentary Party, consisting of the newly elected members of the Lok Sabha and the existing members of the Rajya Sabha, unanimously re-elected Mr Rajiv Gandhi today as its leader before he was called upon by the President, Mr Zail Singh, to form the new Government.

The name of Mr Rajiv Gandhi was proposed by Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao and seconded by Mrs Mohsina Kidwai and Mr Wishwanath Pratap Singh, and Mr Buta Singh who presided over the meeting announced his unanimous election amidst thunderous applause in the flood-lit Central Hall of Parliament House.

The outgoing Cabinet met earlier to formally advise the President to dissolve the old Lok Sabha, and thereafter the Election Commission issued a notification constituting the new House.

As Mr Rajiv Gandhi got up to thank the members of the high-domed Central Hall reverberated with the cheers of his party colleagues. He stood silently for a couple of minutes, clad in a white khadi kurta and pyjamas with a Nehru jacket and a cream-coloured shawl around him. He was garlanded by the members who rushed to the podium to congratulate him.

Two minutes silence: The Congress (I) Parliamentary Party observed two minutes silence in memory of Indira Gandhi before proceeding with the re-election of Mr Rajiv Gandhi. The party members, especially the newly elected, gathered an hour earlier in the Central Hall before Mr Rajiv Gandhi accompanied by the working President of the Congress (I), Mr Kamalapati Tripathi, arrived at 12-30 p.m.

The entire meeting, which was concluded in a business-like manner with the minimum of speeches, lasted barely 20 minutes. A touch of glamour was provided by the new film-star politicians who in their immaculate turn-out contrasted sharply with the faded faces of the older generation of congressmen. At the end of the meeting a vote of thanks was proposed by the General Secretary, Mr G.K. Moopanar on behalf of his party colleagues.

Biggest task: Addressing the party after his re-election, Mr Rajiv Gandhi reaffirmed his pledge to give the country an "efficient and clean Government." The biggest task before his party and the Government, he said, was to improve the condition of the poorer sections of the people.

"I will need all your help to carry this massive mandate," the Prime Minister said, while stressing that the Congress (I) should implement the promises made in the party manifesto which in his view was the best way of preparing for the next Parliamentary elections. The spectacular victory of the Congress in the latest Lok Sabha poll was an eloquent vindication of all that the Congress (I) stood for and the continued faith of the masses in its capacity to fulfil its promises to them.

The Prime Minister said that by a fateful coincidence the Congress (I) received its latest mandate on the day that this great organisation which had brought about the country's freedom completed the first century of its existence. He added: "that this day the people of India gave the party a massive mandate brings to one's mind the far-sighted polity of its leaders fashioned right from the days of S.M. Banerjee."

'Clean politics': There were some problems before the country, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said, which needed immediate attention. But the main task of his party was the preservation of the unity and integrity of the country and the uplift of the weaker sections. He added: "Our politics should be clean, the development should be speedy and the fruits of development programmes should reach the people."

The country, he said, needed modernisation not only in the field of science and technology but also in the system of administration. He promised to harness the energies of the youth and also marshal the women power to give every section of the people a sense of participation in the nation-building tasks which was the best way of promoting unity and cohesion.

It was a moment of great emotion for Mr Rajiv Gandhi who through a cruel twist of history has been burdened with the awesome responsibility of governing this vast and complex country. And yet he exuded confidence in his own quiet way that the people could depend on him to face the many tasks ahead with the necessary determination.

PTI reports:

Mr Rajiv Gandhi said: "Friends, today I am at a loss for words for the trust and responsibility that you have thrown upon me. We go into our centenary year with a new mandate for the Congress.

"We will take India ahead. We will see that we give an efficient, clean government. The efficiency must be such that it percolates right down to the grass root level."

"We will need all the strength and discipline that we can muster to achieve it. And I will need all your help to carry the massive mandate and deliver what the people of India are expecting us to deliver.

"I would also like to thank everyone who fought in the election, not just our candidates, but our workers. Much has been said, much is always made of a few leaders who campaign, that election is won on so-and-so's strength, but the fact is, no matter how many leaders and how big they are, election is won on the ground by our workers. It is our workers that we must thank today."

"I would like to thank you for the confidence you have reposed in me and there will be every effort forthcoming on my part to fulfil this responsibility."

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INDIA

RAJIV MEETS WITH MINISTERS, OTHER OFFICIALS

Meeting With Ministers

Madras THE HINDU in English 3 Jan 85 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 2--The Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, initiated a new style of functioning today by asking a number of Ministers of State to see him separately with the Secretaries of their departments to discuss how they should work together and report to him periodically about the progress made in tackling different problems.

The first batch of Ministers who were summoned are those in the Ministries and departments under the Prime Minister's charge, including Commerce and Supply, Industry and Company Affairs, Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Environment, Youth Affairs and Sports, and the scientific departments.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi would probably keep all these Ministries and departments under his charge for some time and may not go in for an early Cabinet expansion.

The young Prime Minister is going about methodically to ginger up the elephantine machinery of the Central Government by taking a selective interest in the work of other Ministries under Cabinet rank Ministers or in independent charge of senior Ministers of State. His whole emphasis is on a government that works, not just a clean administration free from the stigma of corruption.

No kitchen cabinet: His very first move after assuming office was to dispel the feeling that the country was heading for another spell of coterie rule. He has made it quite clear that there will be no kitchen cabinets and that he does not intend to play favourites beyond a point by giving undue latitude to his confidants to interfere outside their allotted spheres.

The new broom effect is already being felt in the Central Secretariat where Ministers and Secretaries have started taking steps to end the atmosphere of apathy and stagnation. The Prime Minister's warning, on

the very day of the formation of his Cabinet, that he was not going to tolerate lethargy or inefficiency and that he would not hesitate to drop those who did not come up to his expectations, appears to have been taken seriously by his colleagues.

Search for talent: The point Mr Rajiv Gandhi has been stressing is that his promise to give the country a clean and efficient government cannot be fulfilled unless he has able and honest colleagues to run the administration. It is known that he has been looking around for some bright outsiders to be inducted into his Government at a later state to head specialised Ministries and departments calling for considerable ability and experience.

It will take some time to complete the changes he is contemplating in the higher bureaucracy since Mr Rajiv Gandhi does not want to ride roughshod and demoralise the services in the process of putting abler men in key positions. The search is on for at least half a dozen promising senior officials, to begin with, for filling some of the posts falling vacant shortly before shifting others around to tone up the administration.

At the political level he wants Governors to be chosen with greater care to ensure that they are men and women of reasonable stature, not unwanted politicians who have been given these sinecures because they cannot be accommodated elsewhere. The intention is to restore the lost prestige of the institution of Governors which is essential for establishing a better working relationship with the Chief Ministers of States.

A significant feature of the formation of the new Cabinet has been that Mr Rajiv Gandhi did not take any single person into complete confidence about the composition of the whole team, although he consulted his advisers about the suitability of certain individuals.

Guidelines to Ministries

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Jan 85 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, January 3 (PTI)--The Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has made a detailed review of the working of the industry, commerce, tourism and civil aviation ministries and gave guidelines to improve their performance.

Mr Gandhi, who is in charge of these ministries along with a number of others, had separate meetings in this connection with the concerned ministers of state and the secretaries.

At his meeting with the minister of state for industry and company affairs, Mr Arif Mohamad Khan, the Prime Minister reviewed various measures being undertaken by the ministry to promote industrial development.

The Prime Minister said that industrial development could be achieved with an expeditious system of industrial approvals, modernisation, technology upgradation, early detection of industrial sickness, development of G. Somiah, secretary, company af-small-scale sector.

Mr Gandhi particularly underlined the need for efficient and clean administration at all levels in the implementation of various programmes aimed at speedy industrial growth.

Dr S.S. Sidhu, secretary, industrial development, Mr D.V. Kapur, secretary, heavy industries and Mr C.G. Somiah, secretary, company affairs, were present.

Mr Gandhi spent nearly two hours reviewing the working of the ministries of industries and company affairs.

He also met the minister of state for commerce and supply, Mr P.A. Sangma, and the minister of state for tourism and civil aviation, Mr Ashok Gehlot, along with concerned secretaries and reviewed their functioning.

The food and civil supplies minister, Rao Birendra Singh, asked top officials of his ministry to streamline the administration to ensure better availability of essential commodities to the public and also to keep their prices under control.

Addressing them after assuming charge of his new office, Rao Birendra Singh asked the officers to prepare a "status paper" on the working of the ministry to enable the necessary "streamlining."

Rao Birendra Singh reminded the officers that during the current year, foodgrains stocks would be of larger proportions as compared to last year's record 151 million tonnes. He asked them to make arrangements for better storage facilities than the open storage to which the country had to resort last year.

He expressed concern over the low sugar production last year of nearly 60 lakh tonnes, as compared to over 80 lakh tonnes in the past two years and struck an optimistic note for this sugar year which had begun on an encouraging note. He, however, felt that measures had to be taken to ensure adequate supplies of sugar and also vanaspati at reasonable prices to the consumers.

He underlined the need for utmost efficiency and integrity on their part so that the people could be served in the true spirit of dedication.

The minister of state for petroleum, Mr Nawal Kishore Sharma, has emphasised the urgent need for increasing indigenous crude oil production to curb the outflow of foreign exchange on their import.

Mr Sharma, who was addressing senior officers of his ministry soon after assuming office yesterday, said the massive mandate received by the government in the elections had imposed a great responsibility on it and it was necessary that "we rise to the expectations of the people."

Oil exploration activity, he said, should be stepped up and the refinery expansion programme completed on schedule to meet the requirements of petroleum products. He wanted special attention to be given to ensure availability of kerosene.

UNI adds: The minister of state for commerce, Mr P.A. Sangma, formally assumed charge of his office today and emphasised to his officers and others that a stringent yardstick of performance and evaluation would be applied to all.

Mr Sangma, who was deputy commerce minister in Mrs Indira Gandhi's cabinet said there was a need to adopt new streamlined procedures in the day-to-day functioning of the ministry to speed up the work process.

He said he was in favour of giving greater autonomy to the public sector undertakings falling under his ministry.

Earlier, the commerce secretary, Mr S. Abid Hussain and the textile secretary, Mr Harbans Singh, welcomed the minister.

CSO: 4600/1275

INDIA

DROPPING OF MUKHERJEE FROM CABINET RANKS QUESTIONED

G.K. Reddy Comment

Madras THE HINDU in English 2 Jan 85 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 1--The day after the formation of the new Cabinet, the one question that continues to be asked by almost everybody is why was Mr Pranab Mukherjee dropped by the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, from his team.

It was generally anticipated that Mr Mukherjee's portfolio of Finance would be changed along with those of other senior Ministers like Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao and Mr S.B. Chavan, but nobody expected that Mr Rajiv Gandhi was going to drop him for whatever reason.

There is no indication yet whether his exit from the Cabinet implies that he is going to be replaced as Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha, which will become known only when Parliament meets soon. But it is highly unlikely that he would be allowed to continue or he would agree to do so, in this important position after he had been unceremoniously dropped from the Cabinet.

It was equally evident from the composition of the Cabinet that the Prime Minister does not want any Minister to exceed the assigned role. The appointment of Mr Arun Nehru, his controversial aide as only a Minister of State for Irrigation and Power under Mr B. Shankaranand, is indicative of Mr Rajiv Gandhi's determination not to let any of his party or Cabinet colleagues assume the role of his confidants beyond a point.

R.K. Dhawan goes on leave

It is not without significance that the very next day after the formation of the new Cabinet, the all-powerful Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Mr R.K. Dhawan, who was a highly-influential institution in Indira Gandhi's time, has been either asked or allowed to proceed on leave, opening the way for some important changes in Mr Rajiv Gandhi's establishment.

But it remains to be seen whether others in Mr Gandhi's entourage who have been able to earn his confidence and come to wield considerable political influence by virtue of their close proximity to him, would be allowed to function as his conscience keepers or custodians of his interests.

If Mr Pranab Mukherjee's exit from the Cabinet has attracted countrywide attention and led to intense speculation about the possible reasons for his exclusion, it is because of the great influence he had come to wield as number two in Indira Gandhi's Government.

An extremely shrewd politician, Mr Pranab Mukherjee has had perhaps the most meteoric rise as a Central Minister although he had no political foothold in his home State, West Bengal. He was inducted first as a Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Industrial Developments and shifted later on to Shipping and Transport.

Later he got into the Finance Ministry as a Minister of State under Mr C. Subramaniam. He was given independent charge of Banking during the Emergency when he established a close equation with the late Sanjay Gandhi and remained loyal to Indira Gandhi even after her defeat in the 1977 elections.

As one of those unfortunate leaders in Indira Gandhi's camp to be defeated in the 1980 Lok Sabha elections, Mr Mukherjee did not qualify for automatic inclusion in the new Cabinet then as she did not want to set a bad precedent by taking a defeated leader into her team, despite Sanjay Gandhi's pleas that an exception should be made in his case.

Last-minute choice

When the Cabinet was sworn in on January 14, 1980, Mr Pranab Mukherjee was not even invited to the ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan. But as it so happened, he went without a formal invitation much to the embarrassment of the officials in charge of the ceremony who were quite surprised to see him there.

The Cabinet list was submitted to the President only a few minutes before the arrival of Indira Gandhi for the swearing in ceremony and she was taken aback when told that one of the Ministers of State, Mr Bhagwat Jha Azad had walked out in a huff as he was not given a Cabinet rank while Mr Bhisma Narain Singh, who also hailed from Bihar, got it.

As Indira Gandhi had limited the first instalment of her Council of Ministers to the auspicious figure of 22, she was upset when the number was suddenly reduced to 21 by Mr Bhagwat Jha Azad's walk-out. As he happened to be there, she decided to include Mr Pranab Mukherjee in her Cabinet at that last moment to adhere to the chosen figure. It was only later he was elected to the Rajya Sabha, that too from Gujarat.

From then on, Mr Mukherjee did not have to look back even once, since it seemed that the magic carpet had unfolded before him until he reached the number two position in the Cabinet. He was first appointed Commerce

Minister and given concurrent charge of Steel and Mines. Then he moved to Finance in the place of Mr R. Venkataraman.

He also looked after Commerce and Industry after Mr N.D. Tiwari and Mr V.P. Singh were sent to Uttar Pradesh before the recent elections. He was a member of all the important Cabinet sub-committees including the Political Affairs Committee and presided over Cabinet meetings in Indira Gandhi's absence.

Nobody seems to have a complete answer to the question why Mr Pranab Mukherjee had fallen from Mr Rajiv Gandhi's grace. He was, no doubt, a controversial figure and was often under attack for his decisions like the patronage extended to non-resident Indians, but he could not have done such things without Indira Gandhi's concurrence.

There must be some compelling reason for his exclusion from the new Cabinet.

Misunderstanding With Rajiv

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 1 Jan 85 p 1

[Article by Kewal Varma]

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 31--A misunderstanding between Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Mr Pranab Mukherjee on the day Mrs Indira Gandhi was assassinated is believed to have led to him being dropped from the Union council of ministers.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi was on a campaign tour in West Bengal when he received the news of the attempt on his mother's life. He flew back to Delhi in a special plane with the West Bengal governor, Mr Uma Shankar Dikshit, the Lok Sabha Speaker, Mr Balram Jakhar, Mr A.B.A. Ghani Khan Choudhury and Mr Pranab Mukherjee.

Mr Gandhi had switched on his radio for the latest news on the condition of his mother, though it was clear that the worst had happened. At that point Mr Jakhar broke the stony silence and is believed to have said: "We should think of the eventuality also." Mr Gandhi then requested them to go to the rear of the plane and not disturb him.

In the discussions that reportedly took place after that and which Mr Gandhi overheard, Mr Mukherjee is said to have remarked that on two previous similar occasions, Mr Guzarilal Nanda, who was then number two in the Cabinet, was made the interim Prime Minister. Mr Mukherjee was obviously hinting that he should be made the interim Prime Minister. But Mr Ghani Khan Choudhury is believed to have said that Mr Rajiv Gandhi should be made the Prime Minister straightaway, and the others agreed with him.

Reports to this effect found their way into the press and the misunderstanding was compounded when Mr Mukherjee refused to issue a denial on the lines suggested.

Mr Gandhi further gave an indication of his displeasure with Mr Mukherjee when, at his first press conference after the Congress (I) victory in the elections he said that the dismissal of state governments both in 1977 and 1980 was wrong.

Mr Mukherjee, it may be recalled, had said during the election campaign that the Left Front government will be dismissed if it failed to win majority of the parliamentary seats from West Bengal.

A final confirmation that Mr Mukherjee would be dropped came today when he was not asked either to propose or second the name of Mr Rajiv Gandhi as leader of Congress Parliamentary Party. Mr Gandhi's name was proposed by Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao and seconded by Mrs Mohsina Kidwai and Mr V.P. Singh.

As for Mr Ghani Khan Choudhury, he is reported to have been dropped from the Cabinet on two grounds.

First, the fight between Mr Mukherjee and Mr Choudhury has got out of hand and Mr Rajiv Gandhi thought it best to axe both of them.

Besides, it is said that Mr Gandhi did not like Mr Choudhury's abrasive style, and nor did he approve of his fight with his minister of state, Mr Jaffer Sharief.

CSO: 4600/1274

INDIA

ANALYST DISCUSSES GANDHI FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES

Madras THE HINDU in English 9 Jan 85 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 8--The Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, reviewed foreign policy, especially the relations with neighbouring countries, at a meeting with the Chairman of the Policy Planning Committee, Mr G. Parthasarathi, the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, the three secretaries in the Ministry and other senior officials to see what could be done to improve the conduct of the country's foreign relations.

The review coincided with the receipt of the disquieting report that Sri Lankan patrol boats had opened fire again on Indian fishing vessels within Indian territorial waters, killing two persons last night.

[paragraph illegible]

Patrol intensified

India lodged a strong protest with the Sri Lanka Government against this unwarranted attack besides directing the Indian Navy and Coast Guard to intensify their patrolling to provide fuller protection.

(UNI, quoting an official spokesman in New Delhi, said the Sri Lanka's acting High Commissioner in Delhi, Mr Alfred David, was summoned to the External Affairs Ministry and told of India's "deep shock and concern" over the incident).

The Prime Minister asked the External Affairs Ministry to examine various possibilities of improving relations with neighbouring countries, which by the latest definition include China and Burma along with the six fellow-members of the South Asian Regional Cooperation (SARC)--Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives.

The intention is not to initiate any major diplomatic moves, but work quietly behind the scenes to create a better climate for tackling outstanding issues with these neighbouring countries in an atmosphere of mutual trust.

Highest priority

The highest priority is being given to improvement of relations with Sri Lanka for tackling the Tamil problem in a more positive atmosphere, since it is much more urgent and also relatively less complex than settling the border dispute with China or establishing better understanding with Pakistan. But the Sri Lankan Government would be making a grave mistake if it jumped to the conclusion that with the completion of the elections in Tamil Nadu, Mr Gandhi and his advisers in Delhi are under no compulsion to press for an early settlement of the problem.

The current mood in Delhi is of distress and indignation over the senseless savagery of the Sri Lankan Army over which the Jayewardene Government seems to have little control since the rampaging troops have been killing indiscriminately to terrorise the Tamil population. There is a limit to India's patience and a point may be reached when the new Prime Minister would find it extremely difficult to control the inflamed feelings in Tamil Nadu as more and more refugees start pouring in to save their lives.

At the same time due care is being taken to ensure that in concentrating on improvement of relations with neighbouring countries, the focus of Indian diplomacy does not shift from its more fundamental commitments to the non-aligned community in its capacity as current chairman of the movement. The Prime Minister has stressed the need for preserving this wider perspective in giving greater priority to more proximate problems in the region.

The Prime Minister also asked the External Affairs Ministry to take a fresh look at the country's relations with the big powers, but this review will not involve any tilt towards the U.S. at the expense of India's friendship with the Soviet Union. The whole accent is on taking positive steps, not negative ones, to avoid frictions, remove misunderstandings, and improve relations wherever possible, without detriment to the country's wider interest.

China exercise

The China exercise will be a long drawn out one which has to be conducted in greater depth after the impending changes in the External Affairs Ministry early next month following the Foreign Secretary's retirement. At any rate there is no great urgency for it, since the next round of border talks are not due to be held before the second half of this year because of other preoccupations.

The Prime Minister will have a chance to meet his Chinese counterpart, Mr Zhao Ziang, or some other top Chinese leader, if he goes to Bandung in early April for the 30th anniversary of the historic conference. The Chinese leaders want him to pay a visit to Beijing if he is going to be visiting this year other world capitals like Moscow, Paris and Washington.

The relations with Britain are also under review in the light of the recent strains over its handling of the Sikh extremists operating from there. Apart from putting off a number of ministerial visits from Britain, the Government of India has decided to defer the purchases of some helicopters and other equipment, besides reconsidering a number of pending economic deals, to voice its displeasure.

CSO: 4600/1306

INDIA

DMKP PRESIDENT PRAISES GANDHI GOVERNMENT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, January 12--Mr Charan Singh today pledged his party's co-operation to any serious efforts towards strengthening national unity and resistance to policies which it considers will [sentence incomplete].

The DMKP president, responding to the Prime Minister's appeal for co-operation, acknowledged that the new "government seems to have begun well, judging from some policy statements which accord with the views expressed in the DMKP's election manifesto."

"The government has sought our co-operation and we will give this co-operation in any serious and sincere effort to preserve and strengthen national unity, remove unemployment," he said.

At the same time he struck a note of caution saying that the Prime Minister's frequent references to taking the country into the 21st century were nothing more than talking after a fashion.

"Mr Nehru himself in two speeches--one in the NDC and the other in the Lok Sabha--acknowledged in the closing months of his life that his deviation from Mahatma's economic philosophy had led to monopoly and much misery."

According to Mr Charan Singh, "there is a whole range of matters on which the new government's policies are yet unclear: for instance, decentralisation of economic and political power, ending caste tyranny, policy for women, implementation of the Mandal commission report, rejuvenation of villages, pattern of industrialisation, land reforms, food distribution and pricing."

He promised that the DMKP would "continue to work for the objectives set out in its manifesto and mobilise public opinion in favour of these objectives. It has serious reservations about the conduct of the recent election to the Lok Sabha and about many unanswered questions on the involvement of people in high positions in dubious deals."

However, he said, he wished to confine himself to saying that "our response to the government's appeal for co-operation will be constructive. Simultaneously, the DMKP will vigorously resist policies which in its view are or may prove disastrous for the nation.

The party will rouse the people against criminalisation of politics. We have a responsibility to build both the people's strength and a strong opposition, because absolute power, if it is not restrained, has a certain relentless logic."

CSO: 4600/1296

INDIA

FAROOQ PARTY DEMANDS KASHMIR GOVERNMENT RESIGN

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 9 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 8--Mr G.M. Shah's Ministry must resign and seek fresh polls in the State--like Mr Ramakrishna Hegde has done--after the failure of Mr Shah's party in the recent Lok Sabha elections, the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (Farooq) demanded here today.

In a five-page statement released here, Mr Farooq Abdullah asked the Prime Minister to withdraw his party's support to the "defectors' Government" in Jammu and Kashmir, following "the people's verdict" in the elections. Mr Abdullah said this verdict should be respected and "the people's confidence in democratic traditions and constitutional propriety must be restored" by the Centre.

"The supreme national interest demands that the new Central Government which fortunately owes its birth to a massive mandate of the people must act promptly, without any hangover of the past, to right the wrong, and dismiss the illegal Shah regime, and make early arrangements for fresh elections," Mr Abdullah said.

He warned that "any diffidence on their part to act quickly or misjudge the mood and aspirations of the people of the State is bound to complicate the situation and the consequence can be better imagined than described."

He said with the announcement of the results of the Lok Sabha elections in Kashmir, it was expected that in deference to the clear and categorical verdict given by the people, the six-month-old illegitimate Shah Government would step down "with a sense of remorse for the fraud, treachery and deceit committed by it in having dislodged a duly-elected Government.

On the contrary, Mr D.D. Thakur, a representative of the Shah Government at a Press conference in Delhi on January 3 attempted to justify the legitimacy and continuance of the "illegal Shah regime."

Mr Thakur sought to make the point that unlike in Karnataka the situation in Jammu and Kashmir does not bind the Shah regime to bow out of office in response to the recent popular verdict.

"If the contention is based on the premise that the regime does not owe its birth to the verdict of the people under a legitimate democratic process as envisaged in the Constitution, having come into being through an amoral and outrageous method and, therefore, has no moral obligation to respect and accept the people's verdict, it can be conceded as understandable," the statement said.

"In Karnataka," the statement said, "Mr Hegde had been voted to power by a clear mandate of the electorate in the Assembly elections in 1983 and could legitimately have continued in office for the full term of five years. But without pressure from any quarters, he himself chose to quit office purely on moral grounds, following the relatively larger number of Lok Sabha seats won by the Congress (I), even though, in terms of total votes polled, his party had earned about 10% more votes in these elections compared with the position in 1983."

"The situation in Jammu and Kashmir presents a grotesque contrast to this position. Mr Shah did not win power at the hustings. He usurped it from a duly-elected Government through engineered defections under a planned conspiracy aided and abetted by the then Central Government in utter disregard of morality and justice. All through these six months, the illegal regime has sustained itself with the support of a curfew, an imposition of Section 144 Cr.P.C. and heavy security protection and now stands exposed and condemned by the results of the Lok Sabha elections," the statement added.

"The candidates fielded by the National Conference (Farooq) polled 1,087,726 votes," the statement says, "compared with the 793,947 votes polled by the ruling clique and the Congress (I) together, and yet Mr Thakur claims that if the gains of the two were clubbed together the Government has not forfeited the confidence of the people."

CSO: 4600/1286

INDIA

REPORTAGE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION

Department of Personnel, Administration

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 10 Jan 85 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 9 (PTI)--The newly constituted department of personnel and administrative reforms under the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, will have wide-ranging tasks to perform, including recruitment, promotion and maintaining the morale of the Central services.

Among other things, the new department will supervise reservation of posts in the services, general questions relating to recruitment, promotion and seniority pertaining to Central services, except railways, and services under the control of the department of atomic energy, electronics, and space and the scientific and technical services under the department of defence research and development.

The department, according to an official notification, will be in charge of general policy regarding age limits, medical standards, educational qualifications and recognition of non-technical degress/diplomats for appointments service.

It will decide deputation of Indian experts abroad under the Indian technical and economic co-operation programme of the ministry of external affairs and on bilateral basis of the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

It will also decide deputation of officers or placements with the United Nations and its allied agencies as also with other international agencies like the International Labour Organisation and FAO.

The other tasks entrusted to the department are: general policy matters regarding classification of posts and grant of gazetted status in relations to services other than railway services.

Recruitment of ministerial staff for the government of India secretariat and its attached offices except that for the ministry of railways, the department of atomic energy, the department of electronics and the department of space.

Appointment of non-Indians to civil posts under the government of India except posts under the ministry of railways, the departments of atomic energy, electronics and space.

General policy regarding employment assistance to persons of Indian origin coming from various countries, concessions to war service candidates in respect of appointments to civil posts and services.

General policy regarding resettlement of displaced government servants from areas now in Pakistan and retrenched temporary employees.

Concessions to political sufferers in the matters of first appointment or re-appointment to the public services.

General policy regarding grant of extension to or re-employment of superannuated officers and issue of certificates of eligibility for appointment to civil services and posts under the Union in respect of persons other than Indian citizens.

Posts and Telegraph Divided

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 9 Jan 85 p 5

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 8 (UNI)--The department of posts and telegraphs stands bifurcated with effect from December 31, 1984 in terms of a Presidential notification issued on January 4 amending the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961.

Although the recommendation to bifurcate the department made by the Sarin Committee in June 1981 was accepted last October, the modalities had not been worked out.

Trade and industry circles represented by the Federation of India Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) had been demanding the bifurcation of the department since quite some time.

According to the Government of India (Allocation of Business-164th amendment) Rules 1985 the "department of posts" will be responsible for:

--Implementation of treaties and agreements relating to matters dealt with within the department of posts with other countries;

--Execution of works and purchases of land debitable to the capital budget pertaining to the department of posts;

--Posts, including post office savings bank (administration), post office certificates (administration) and post offices like insurance fund (administration);

--Offences against laws with respect to any of the matters in this list;

--Inquiries and statistics for the purposes of any of the matters in this list and

--Fees in respect of any of the matters in this list but not including fees taken in any court.

The responsibilities of the "department of telecommunications" have been listed as under:

--Implementation of treaties and agreements relating to matters dealt within the department of telecommunication with other countries;

--Execution of works and purchase of land debitable to the capital budget pertaining to the telecommunications;

--Telegraphs, including telephones, wireless and other like forms of communications;

--Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore and Hindustan Teleprinters Limited, Madras;

--Offences against laws with respect of any of the matters in this list;

--Inquiries and statistics for the purpose of any other matter in this list and

--Fees in respect of any of the matters in this list but not including fees taken in any court.

The Sarin Committee had recommended that the budget for the postal and telecommunications department be presented separately for grants and stressed that it was not necessary to have a separate budget as in the case of the railways.

If the Sarin Committee recommendations are implemented in toto, the telecommunications department will have its own separate board with delegated powers and will be headed by a secretary. The posts department will also be headed by a secretary with similar functions.

Regarding the organisational set-up of the proposed telecommunications board, the Sarin Committee had recommended that the board, chaired by the secretary, have five members entrusted with telecommunications operation, development, technology and production personnel and finance, respectively.

Rajiv's Style Noted

Madras THE HINDU in English 10 Jan 85 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 9--After their first flush of enthusiasm, the new Prime Minister's image builders have become a little wary of the hazards of arousing great expectations by projecting Mr Rajiv Gandhi as a dynamic leader endowed with tremendous drive and determination for achieving quick results to change the face of this country soon.

The accent now is no longer on presenting him as a young man in a hurry to cleanse the system and give the country a better government, but on portraying him as an earnest and sensitive Prime Minister anxious to get the country on the move again.

The Prime Minister's advisers are rather upset by the excessive publicity being given by certain sections of the press to some changes in the bureaucracy, creating an entirely wrong impression that Mr Rajiv Gandhi was bent on rocking the boat to keep his promise of giving the country a clean and efficient government. The presidential order on allocation of business to various ministries and departments which is done after each Cabinet formation or reshuffle to rationalise or regularise the redistribution of portfolios or regrouping of subjects has been mistaken for a new development, as though the consequential changes made were indeed, part of a wider shake-up of the administration.

Nothing unusual

The old broom becomes new after every change of government with the result that the new broom effect is felt even when what is being used is only an old broom. The Planning Commission, for example, is reconstituted when a new government takes over at the centre and so there was nothing unusual in the latest changes made in its composition, since this is not the first time that a technocrat and not a politician has been appointed Deputy Chairman.

It is an accepted prerogative of the Prime Minister to appoint officials of his choice in a few key positions but the point that is being stressed is that in doing so Mr Rajiv Gandhi is not wielding his power in an arbitrary or brutal way to make the whiplash of it felt by one and all in the Government. As the human material at his disposal is roughly the same, he has prudently chosen not to overlook the seniority rule in all cases to put his confidants in key positions.

He has also been trying to avoid bottlenecks in the higher bureaucracy by giving extensions, although some exceptions continue to be made by him. But he has not so far overlooked the legitimate claims of senior officials to be considered for promotion in choosing the new Secretaries to fill the vacancies in several ministries and departments.

But what is important is that he has set his priorities after careful consideration and, in implementing his policies and programmes to live up to the expectations of the people, he is not going to tolerate lethargy and lassitude, not to speak of corruption and nepotism, in the functioning of the government.

The Ministry-wise review he has been conducting to ensure better understanding between Ministers and senior civil servants in implementing the prescribed policies is basically intended to caution them well in advance that he would not hesitate to deal sternly with both categories if they squabbled or played favourites to the point of working at cross-purpose.

No witch-hunt

Many new postings and promotions are going to be announced in the next few weeks in the normal course, partly to tone up the administrative machinery at the Centre and partly to ensure better performance by the public sector enterprises. But there will be no witch-hunt of any kind to unjustly displace those in senior positions or ignore the legitimate claims of others to be considered for promotion.

The new Prime Minister has made it quite clear that he does not intend to do what the Janata did in 1977 or for that matter what the Congress (I) did on its return to power in 1980, in the name of purging the administration of undesirable elements when scores of senior bureaucrats were either sent on forced leave or reverted to their respective State cadres to make way for trusted persons. But he is not going to put up with inefficiency at the higher levels in the name of respecting the seniority rule by letting incompetent officials continue in key positions till their retirement in normal course.

As part of his determination to give the country a new look government, Mr Rajiv Gandhi has directed both Ministers and Secretaries to ginger up their Ministries and departments, streamline the decision-making processes and ensure punctuality and tidiness to create an atmosphere of efficiency and dedication. He took over the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms primarily to see that competence receives due recognition and that there is no misuse of patronage in choosing senior civil servants with the right aptitude for important administrative assignments.

CSO: 4600/1287

INDIA

RAMA RAO ANNOUNCES PLANS TO FORM NEW PARTY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 12 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] Hyderabad, January 11 (PTI)--The Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Mr N.T. Rama Rao, today announced his plans to launch a Bharat Desam party at the national level in May following his Telugu Desam emerging as the single largest group in the present Lok Sabha.

Mr Rama Rao, who is founder president of the two-and-a-half-year-old Telugu Desam, told reporters here that his idea was to launch the national party at the plenary session of the Telugu Desam slated for May 27 and 28.

The Bharat Desam, he said, would be a federal party. While the Telugu Desam in Andhra Pradesh would retain its identity, the national party's units in various states would similarly be named after the language of each state--like Tamil Desam and Kanada Desam.

The chief minister who had spoken of his plans at the meeting of the newly-elected Telugu Desam members of the Lok Sabha here yesterday told reporters today that he proposed issuing an appeal to the youth of the country in this regard.

The upholding of the self-respect of the Telugu people was the main plank of Telugu Desam. What would be the main plant of Bharat Desam, the chief minister was asked. "Self respect of Bharat Desam," he replied.

Mr Rama Rao said the TDP was started as "a regional party as they call it," and now the role of the opposition at the national level had been thrust on it. Bharat Desam would be the reply to the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, who in the course of electioneering in the state had told the people to choose between Bharat Desam and Telugu Desam, he added.

Seat Adjustment

Mr Rama Rao expressed the hope that his party and the friendly opposition parties would be able to reach an agreement over adjustment of seats to be contested by them in the forthcoming elections to the state assembly.

Mr Rama Rao said the talks were nearing conclusion and "let us hope we will have the required understanding."

Asked about the basis for adjustment, Mr Rama Rao said each party would retain the seat it held in the dissolved house and the remaining seats would be shared by the parties as per their respective strengths in the constituencies.

UNI adds: Mr Rama Rao said Telugu Desam would raise in the tok Sabha the question of the Andhra Pradesh governor, Mr S.D. Sharma, not repromulgating the ordinance abolishing the institution of village officers.

He asserted that the ordinance did not relate to any fresh policy matter, but was only a continuation of the decision taken earlier.

CSO: 4600/1295

INDIA

DALAI LAMA INTERVIEWED ON VISIT TO MADRAS

Madras THE HINDU in English 5 Jan 85 p 9

[Text]

MADRAS, Jan. 4.

The Dalai Lama said here today that there was no possibility of his visiting China this year, as he had planned some time back. He told newsmen that the time was not yet "appropriate for his visit and hence he had postponed it. "Perhaps I will go in the next two or three years", he said.

He noted that there were positive developments from the Chinese side, and the Government had maintained its efforts from 1963, to get him to at least visit the country, if not return. "After 1979, there has been a marked change and when they invited me, I too responded, first by sending a delegation and later by promising to visit Beijing in 1985. But other things have happened in the meantime which made me change my mind".

The Dalai Lama explained that the most significant event which affected his programme was the developments in Tibet during September-October 1983, when thousands of his followers, including monks, were arrested enmasse on alleged charges of criminal offences—"their only crime was to welcome and meet the members of the three delegations we sent in 1979 and 1980", he added.

Conditions for visit: Asked about his conditions for visiting China, he said, "Complete freedom of speech, expression and movement, both, for me and the people I meet. The Government must assure us that our followers will not be arrested or intimidated after my visit, because that is what followed after the visit of our delegations. Photographs were taken of people who received and met the delegation and they were later punished. A 70-year-old scholar and monk, Lobsang Wangchu, was sentenced to 18 years imprisonment and you know what it means".

The self-exiled spiritual and temporal head of Tibet, maintained that he was "at home" in India, and would continue to serve "my people from outside".

Visits Tibetan resettlement: The Dalai Lama said that on his way to Madras, he visited two major Tibetan resettlements in Karnataka and was very happy with the progress there. They were being run on the lines of the original Tibetan monasteries, with scholars and all, and had regained their old standing and activity. There was a chain of 500 to 600 centres of learning in the world, covering Europe, Australia, New Zealand and the Far East countries.

Despite the wind of change in China, the restarted monasteries had not become real centres of study, since the Government appeared satisfied with making them "museums" with inmates having the rosary and the prayer wheel.

He said the Panchen Lama, who was still in China, had served a term of imprisonment of nearly 10 years but had been rehabilitated in 1978 as a "dignitary", but without freedom of speech and movement.

He was happy with his short visit to Madras, to inaugurate an inter-religious conference, and said such an effort must spread to change the mental attitude of people, which was the basis of any good or evil. "A closer relation between religions is necessary to enable them to make a common effort and contribute to unity and save humanity".

Concern over Sri Lanka: The Dalai Lama when asked about Sri Lanka closed his eyes for a moment, before expressing what appeared to be both concern and sorrow over the happenings in the island.

"It is unfortunate that people who were living as brothers (in Sri Lanka) should develop such misunderstanding", he said. He called for a "cooling down" of tempers and attitudes of the concerned people before resuming the dialogue. He agreed that a Hindu-Buddhist dialogue would also help to find the ultimate solution to the problem plaguing the island.

The Dalai Lama left for Bombay later.

CSO: 4600/1310

INDIA

'MAJOR' RESHUFFLE IN PLANNING COMMISSION REPORTED

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

[Text] New Delhi, January 5 (PTI)--A major reshuffle is being effected in the planning commission by bringing in Dr Man Mohan Singh, RBI governor as its deputy chairman and inducting experts and technical personnel, it was authoritatively learnt today.

The commission will have eight members, including the deputy chairman, as against five so far.

All except two of the reconstituted commission are new members.

A major change is that the planning minister will not be the deputy chairman, which has generally been the case hitherto.

The new members of the commission, whose chairman is the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, are Dr Raja Chellaiah, director of the National Institute of Public Finance and policy, Mr Hiten Bhaya, former chairman of Hindustan Steel Ltd and Mr Abid Hussain, commerce secretary.

Prof M.G.K. Menon and Dr C.H. Hanumanatha Rao will continue to be the members.

The new Central ministers on the commission are Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao (defence who is also holding additional charge of planning) and Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh (Finance).

The members who have been dropped are Mr Mohd Fazal and Prof A.M. Khusro.

It was understood that the idea behind the reconstitution was to further enrich the composition of the commission.

On several occasions in the past eminent economists had been deputy chairmen of the commission. They include Prof Mahalanobis, Mr Asoka Mehta, Prof D.R. Gadgil and Dr L.T. Lakdavalala.

Mr R.N. Malhotra, executive director, IMF, on behalf of India, will be the new governor of the Reserve Bank of India.

Mr Malhotra succeeds Dr Man Mohan Singh who is being appointed deputy chairman of the planning commission.

Dr Arjun K. Sengupta, hitherto special secretary to the Prime Minister, will succeed Mr Malhotra as executive director of the IMF on behalf of India.

Mr Montex Singh Ahluwalia, economic adviser in the finance ministry will join the Prime Minister's office in place of Dr Sen Gupta.

CSO: 4600/1291

INDIA

PRADHAN TAKES OVER AS NEW UNION HOME SECRETARY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, January 14--Mr R.D. Pradhan, chief secretary of the Maharashtra government will assume charge as the Union home secretary tomorrow.

The post was under the charge of the special secretary in home ministry, Mr Prem Kumar since the appointment of the previous incumbent, Mr M.M.K. Wali, as Lt-Governor of Delhi on November 4 last.

Mr Prem Kumar is taking over as commerce secretary in place of Mr Abid Hussain who has retired and has been appointed a member of the planning commission.

Our staff reporter adds:

Mr Pradhan on Monday relinquished charge as chief secretary to the Maharashtra government though a successor to him was yet to be named.

Mr Pradhan told newsmen on Monday that he was looking forward to his challenging new assignment. Some of the biggest challenges facing the country including issues concerning Punjab, Assam and domestic peace, would have to be dealt with by the Union home department, he added.

The successful implementation of anti-poverty programmes under the 20-point economic programme, impressive records in the field of family planning and far-reaching administrative reforms were among the major achievements of the state during his tenure as chief secretary, Mr Pradhan said.

Though drought, floods and riots hit the state, the government had effectively tackled them, Mr Pradhan said. The riot-affected had been rehabilitated in record time while drinking water was supplied to over 20,000 drought-stricken villages last summer, the outgoing chief secretary said.

A 1952-batch member of the IAS, Mr Pradhan was appointed chief secretary in August 1982. Before that he was adviser to the secretary general of UNCTAD at Geneva on international trade matters.

His other administrative assignments include those as the director-general of shipping (1979-82) and Maharashtra's home secretary (1977-79). Earlier in his career, he had served as the private secretary to the chief minister of Maharashtra (1960-62) and private secretary to the Union defence minister (1962-65).

CSO: 4600/1299

INDIA

TRIPURA GOVERNMENT URGES TNV TO SURRENDER

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Jan 85 p 9

[Text] Agartala, Jan 2--The Tripura Government has, for the first time, appealed to the leaders and activists of the underground Tribal National Volunteers to begin formal negotiations with the State and surrender arms and ammunition.

Announcing this after a Cabinet meeting yesterday, the Chief Minister, Mr Nripen Chakrabarti, told a Press conference that a three-month period from January 1 had been suggested for the surrender to take place.

Informed sources here attach significance to the appeal because the Centre is soon expected to sign an agreement with the MNF chief, Mr Laldenga, to end the 23-year-old insurgency in Mizoram.

The Chief Minister said the State Cabinet was anxious to draw the TNV's attention to the changes that had taken place in the State in the recent past. He said the provisions of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution to enable the State's hill people to form a Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council in Tripura would be enforced as soon as the Centre's notification was issued in this connexion. He felt that this would open enough opportunities for the tribal youths to play "a creative roll" and participate in developmental work.

Mr Chakrabarti said that three TNV activists, Mr Maniklal Jamatiya, Mr Sachindra Jamatiya and Mr Bhaktasadhan Jamatiya had met him on Tuesday in the guise of commoners to surrender. They had sneaked into the Chittagong Hill Tracts in 1980 to receive training in arms from the MNF outfits and returned to South Tripura district several months ago.

Mr Sachindra Jamatiya confessed that he was involved in the TNV attack on a CRPF patrol at Tetuibari of south district on July 2 last year in which four security men, including an assistant commandant of the CRPF, were killed and their arms looted. A prominent TNV leader, Mr Dinesh Koloi and two of his followers, Mr Jaladhar Reang and Mr Joymanik Rupini had surrendered to the Chief Minister in December.

At least three armed groups of the TNV, comprising over 60 guerrillas, are now present in the State's hill areas.

The Chief Minister, who left for Delhi today, said he would meet the Prime Minister and Union Home Minister to discuss the State's latest situation. He would also urge the Home Minister to send two battalions of the Assam Rifles to Tripura.

CSO: 5650/0062

INDIA

BREAKAWAY TNV GROUP SAID HIDING IN TRIPURA

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 10 Jan 85 p 9

[Text] Argatala, January 9--A group of about 50 extremists led by Kartick Koloi is learnt to have broken away from Bijay Hrang Khawl, TNV leader.

Kartick Koloi, who is "home minister" in the underground TNV setup, is being supported by another ranking extremist leader, Dilip Koloi. The breakaway group, having left the TNV headquarters at Simlung in the Chittagong Hill tracts, is staying at present in an unidentified place in the hilly interior of Tripura.

Kartick Koloi and his followers are willing to surrender on "honourable" terms. It is learnt that a government emissary has already established contact with him and the talks on the terms of surrender are in progress. It is further learnt that the breakaway leader has been insisting on the release of Chuni Koloi, the self-styled TNV "general," who was arrested in April 1983 and has since been given a life sentence by the trial court as a precondition to surrender by his group.

The situation has worsened for Bijoy Hrangkhawl owing to the withdrawal of the Mizo-National Front (MNF) support to the TNV following resumption of peace talks between Mr Laldenga and the central government. His search for alternative support has not met with success so far.

Material Support

A lieutenant of Hrangkhawl recently met the leaders of the National Socialist Council (NSC) of Nagaland and the United Liberation Front of Assam. Although the two rebel organisations sympathised with the TNV, they expressed their inability to provide any material support. The military rulers of Bangladesh are also not showing as much interest in the TNV as they used to.

Hrangkhawl has now been left with only 50 loyal followers in Simlung after the Koloi group deserted him. Although Hrangkhawl has not yet made up his mind, he will ultimately have no option but to surrender. But his hostility to the Left Front is so great that he will not be easily persuaded to surrender. To him the Left Front is a government of Bengali

refugees and hence unrecognisable. He might try to involve the central government in one way or the other, in which case his old friend, Mr Laldenga, might come to his rescue.

Meanwhile, the state government has issued a fresh appeal to the underground members of the TNV to lay down arms and surrender. The government has also promised to take the responsibility of rehabilitating the surrendering extremists. This offer, however, will remain valid for three months from January 1, during which period the process of surrender has to be completed.

CSO: 5650/0064

INDIA

IMPORTANCE OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM STRESSED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Jan 85 pp 1, 9

[Text] New Delhi, January 8--The new administrative culture promised by the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, will find its first expression in its contact with the people.

Priority is being given to the removal of grievances of the public. Under the orders of the Prime Minister who has taken charge of the personnel and administrative reforms department, separated from the home ministry, the structural detail of the machinery to redress grievances is being worked out.

To give substance to the new work ethic of service to the people, sought to be launched, all ministries and departments of the Union government are being equipped with the machinery to redress grievances.

Steps are also being taken to remove what can be described as the number one grievance of the public, namely the unhelpful, callous and overbearing attitude of the public servant towards the problems of the people.

A training course is being drawn up which will instil the new work culture in the public servant that will ensure prompt and courteous service to the people.

The Prime Minister has made it clear that he attaches great importance to this aspect of administrative reforms. He has thus put the department under the charge of a young and dynamic minister of state, Mr K.P. Singhdeo, who has acquitted himself well in the defence ministry.

The government is aware that it can improve its image with the public only through prompt decisions. For achieving this, rules and procedures of departments are being simplified. The emphasis of this new set of rules will be on results, and not on procedures.

The new government is conscious of the fact that to achieve the best results there is need for a system of continuous renewal of personnel in the department or ministry. The system of rotating senior officials of the government between states and the Centre is sought to be strictly enforced.

This system in the recent past was being honoured more in its breach than observance. Even though the former government had taken a decision to strictly enforce the system, too many exceptions were being made to frustrate the objective.

If the new government is true to its intentions, then one may see many changes in higher echelons of the ministries--many more than what has taken place already. Many officials from the Centre will return to their respective states and new officials from the states will fill senior posts at the Centre.

In the next few days a large number of transfers from Central ministries are expected to be made. Normally, 50 to 60 joint secretaries should return to their states in a year. But owing to no observance of the rules in the past the return of many more joint secretaries to their states has become overdue. It is likely that the backlog will be cleared very soon.

Decentralisation Move

UNI adds: The decision-making process in the Central ministries was decentralised today to quicken the pace of work.

Secretaries of all ministries held meetings with their joint secretaries, directors and deputy secretaries and told them that decision would be taken henceforth at their own levels and that all files should not be sent to higher officials for their approval. A decision which even a deputy secretary could take should not be referred to his superior, so that time is saved.

The reorganisation of the working of the ministries would enable the secretary of each ministry to devote himself to more important policy matters and initiate proposals for new projects which could yield immediate results.

An exercise began in the Union home ministry to revamp its working. Mr Brahm Swaroop, at present chief secretary of Madhya Pradesh is likely to be appointed the new home secretary. Mr Prem Kumar, who has been acting as home secretary after Mr M.M.K. Wali was appointed Lt governor of Delhi, is likely to be shifted to another ministry and possibly given independent charge.

Mr U.C. Aggarawal, secretary in the personnel department in the Union home ministry is also being shifted to some other place.

Mr S. Narayanaswamy, additional secretary in the home ministry has been shifted to Karnataka.

The director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Mr J.S. Bawa, is likely to be succeeded by Mr B.M. Sehgal, who is currently joint director in the CBI.

It is understood that while the director of Intelligence Bureau (IB), Mr H.A. Barari, will be retained, changes are being made at the level of joint directors and deputy directors to streamline the intelligence agency.

The minister of state for home affairs, Mrs Ram Dulari Sinha, has been given additional charge of various divisions. Till now, the minister of state for home affairs had been in charge of internal security, the north-east region, the public and backward and tribals division.

Mrs Sinha will now handle the police, the minority cell, the Union territories and the foreigners division, including the department of justice.

This has been done to relieve the pressure on the home minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, who is now a member of the three-man ministerial committee on Punjab and has to deal with more important work entrusted to him by the Prime Minister.

By an omnibus notification issued on January 4, the President has comprehensively amended the government of India (allocation of business) rules, 1961, giving retrospective effect from December 31, 1984 to the reorganisation of several ministries and departments.

The ministry of agriculture has been rechristened "ministry of agriculture and rural development" and will have under its three departments, namely, the department of agriculture and cooperation, the department of agricultural research and education and the department of rural development.

The ministry of commerce will now be known as the ministry of commerce and supply with three departments, namely, the department of commerce, the department of supply and the department of textiles under its control.

The title of the ministry of communications has been retained, but the department of posts and telegraphs have been bifurcated into the department of posts and the department of telecommunications.

The three departments of the ministry of defence, namely, the department of defence production, the department of defence supplies and the department of defence research and development have been reorganised into the department of defence, the department of defence production and supplies and the department of defence research and development.

CSO: 4600/1285

INDIA

ANALYST DISCUSSES DEAL WITH HEMLOCK SEMICONDUCTORS

Madras THE HINDU in English 11 Jan 85 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 10--A new controversy has arisen over the Indian bid to acquire from an American company, Hemlock Semi-conductors Inc of Michigan, the polysilicon making technology and equipment for setting up a National Silicon Facility (NSF) at Baroda at an estimated cost of Rs 92 crores to produce 200 tonnes of this basic material for the country's electronic industry.

An agreement was signed in April 1984 by the Department of Electronics with this American firm, subject to approval of the Cabinet, after the Ministries concerned of the Government of India had cleared the transaction in principle.

But the deal got held up because the U.S. Department of Commerce declined to grant an export licence, pending the conclusion of a Memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the two countries on transfer of high technology. Though the MOU was initialled by representatives of the two Governments in Delhi in November last after protracted discussions, the follow-up talks on working out the procedures for the actual transfer through commercial transactions are yet to take place.

Formalities waived

The U.S. Department of Commerce, evidently acting under instructions from the White House at the instance of the State Department, issued an export licence a few days back without waiting for the completion of the remaining formality of settling the transfer procedures. The Indian Embassy in Washington was notified a few days back about the issue of licence to Hemlock Semi-conductors to export both technology and equipment to India for the project.

But meanwhile some Indian scientists and others who were opposed to this deal for various reasons managed to bring the matter to the notice of the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, alleging that the technology which India was acquiring was obsolete, that the Government for reasons best known to itself was paying an exorbitant price, that the American firm itself was changing over to a more advanced technology and that with some encouragement

the Indian companies already engaged in manufacturing high-grade polysilicon could upgrade their processes and meet the country's requirements.

PM refers it to PAC

The Prime Minister who had no idea about the technological implications of this collaboration agreement has directed that it should be referred first to the Political Affairs Committee and then to the full Cabinet for necessary action. The whole episode has acquired political overtones since an attempt is being made by the opponents of the deal to accuse the officials who negotiated the agreement of acting with undue haste, ignoring the objections raised.

Those campaigning against the Hemlock array of figures claiming that India was paying three or four times more for obtaining this outdated technology which was offered by East Germany some time back at half the cost. But the supporters of the agreement within the Government maintain that this is a good deal which gives access to subsequent technological advances.

The whole issue is very technical and it is difficult to visualise at this stage what view the Political Affairs Committee of the Cabinet takes of it. But as this happens to be the very first technological transaction for which a licence has been issued by the U.S. Government after the MOU was initialled, the Government of India is bound to give due consideration to the political implications of cancelling the Hemlock agreement.

The polysilicon technology that Hemlock will be transferring is known as the Siemen process developed by two other American firms for producing high purity silicon crystals for industrial use, including the manufacture of photovoltaic equipment for harnessing solar energy. The argument being advanced against this agreement is that it would saddle India's nascent electronic industry not only with obsolete technology but also high capital costs making it uncompetitive in the world market.

CSO: 4600/1290

INDIA

PAKISTAN BORDER ATTACK IN EARLY JANUARY REPORTED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 15 Jan 85 p 11

[Text] Jammu, Jan 14--Half a dozen Pakistani Army personnel were killed and more than a dozen were reported to have been seriously injured when Indian defence personnel repulsed a well-organized attack by Pakistani's elite Special Services Group commandos early this month in the Siachen Glacier area of Ladakh.

Disclosing this here yesterday, a senior Indian Army officer posted in Jammu and Kashmir it was the third organized attack by the Pakistani Army commandos in the area since last April. He said the Indian Army personnel, located in advantageous positions in the area, had witnessed Pakistani Army personnel carrying with them 63 dead bodies while withdrawing after the fierce battles in April and August last year and in the first week of January this year.

Senior Indian Army officers further said that Pakistani guerrillas and commandos trained in snow warfare and equipped with the most modern weapons had launched a two-pronged attack under cover of heavy snowfall in the snow-covered hill reaches above Nubra Valley against Indian pickets on the 6,000 m high glacier and those guarding passes on the adjoining hill ranges on January 1 this year. But Indian troops drove them back after almost three days of battle.

According to an Indian General, in spite of the poor logistics, Indian troops posted on the glacier have an advantage of heights overlooking the Pakistani side. Siachen glacier falls in the 80-km belt in north-eastern Kashmir, where Pakistan defence authorities claim that the Line of Control between Indian and Pakistani-occupied Kashmir has not been clearly demarcated. To the east of Siachen glacier is the area which Pakistan has ceded to China as part the Sino-Pakistani accord.

Since the Line of Control is allegedly not marked beyond the foot of the glacier where Nubra Valley and Nubra river originates, both countries stake their claim to the glacier. Pakistan, according to defence sources, contends that the Line of Actual Control should go eastwards to meet Karakoram Pass, but Indian authorities have made it absolutely clear that the Line of Actual Control goes northwards and then descends to the Skiring area ceded to the Chinese by Pakistan authorities.

Defence intelligence sources here say that in April last year Pakistan had prepared a plan to sponsor an international expedition across the glacier to formalize its claim. But a battalion of the Indian Kumaon Regiment was flown to Thoise, an airfield close to the Chinese border to foil the plan. Indian troops had to undertake a perilous trek to the glacier during which they lost an officer and 19 other personnel in an avalanche but yet managed to overwhelm the Pakistanis after a fierce fight.

This year there has been an abnormally tense situation all along the 1,200-km-long stretch of border in Jammu and Kashmir, where Indian and Pakistani troops are lined up against each other muzzle-to-muzzle. As an Indian General told a Press party which recently toured the border areas of the State, "What we are observing even during these winter months is that the situation on our borders today is not exactly normal."

CSO: 4600/1300

INDIA

BRIEFS

TRADE DEFICIT NARROWS--New Delhi, January 15--India's trade deficit has narrowed by Rs 135.9 crores during the first seven months of the current financial year compared to the corresponding period of 1983-84. According to the latest foreign trade figures (provisional), the balance of trade shows a deficit of Rs 2,607.8 crores during the period, April-October 1984, as against Rs 2,743.7 crores during the same period in the previous year. India's exports during the first seven months of 1984-85 stood at Rs 6,071.7 crores as against Rs 5,023.6 crores in the same period of the previous year--an increase of 20.9 percent. Imports grew by 11.7 percent at Rs 8,679.5 crores, as compared to imports during the first seven months of 1983-84 at Rs 7,776.3 crores. Provisional export figures for October 1984, at Rs 868 crores indicate a significant increase of 43.9 percent over the export performance of Rs 603.5 crores during October 1983. Imports, on the other hand, show a moderate increase of 11.7 percent at Rs 1,135.7 crores in October 1984, as against Rs 1,016.3 crores during October 1983. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 Jan 85 p 14]

NEW LABOR JOURNAL--Bombay, January 13--A new monthly journal on labour relations, Current labour reports, has just hit the stands. It will regularly print judgements of various courts on labour matters as also labour acts, ordinances and regulations. The journal is published by the Labour Law Agency Group of Bombay. The editor is Mr S.R. Samant, retired judge of the industrial court of Maharashtra. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Jan 85 p 3]

TRADE WITH ROMANIA--New Delhi, January 7--For the first time, India will export wheat worth Rs 27.50 crores to Romania. The quantity of exports is unofficially reported to be about 200,000 tonnes. It is apparent that the export price of the wheat is much lower than the minimum support price within the country. Probably this is because India is facing an acute storage problem and the wheat export market has slumped following a bumper world wheat crop. The annual trade protocol for 1985 signed between India and Romania in Bucharest recently envisages a trade turnover of about Rs 500 crores. With India's exports and imports evenly balanced, this indicates an increase of about 36 percent on the planned turnover of Rs 366 crores for 1984. India's export basket for the current year will have increased quantities of a number of commodities like iron ore and concentrates, soyabean meal and extractions, chemicals and agricultural

products. Exports of textiles to Romania will be up by 30 percent, chemicals and allied products by 37 percent, minerals and ores by 12 percent and engineering goods by ten percent. The main items of import from Romania will include machinery, equipment and spares urea, newsprint and cement. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Jan 85 p 11]

CPI-M PARLIAMENTARY LEADER--New Delhi, Jan 14--Dr Saradish Roy has been elected leader of the 22-member Communist Party of India (Marxist) group in the Lok Sabha, reports UNI. While Mr Basudeb Acharya and Mr Bajju Bonriyan were elected deputy leaders Mr Amal Datta was named the Chief Whip. The central committee of the party began a four-day meeting here to review the post-election developments in the country and the international situation. Most of the 67 members, including the party general secretary Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad, the West Bengal Chief Minister, Mr Jyoti Basu and his Tripura counterpart, Mr Nripen Chakravarty, were present. The meeting is expected to chalk out its strategy for the coming Assembly elections in several States. The President has nominated Mr Frank Anthony and Mr A.E.T. Barrow to the Lok Sabha. A Home Ministry notification here today said that the President has nominated them in exercise of the power conferred under Article 331 of the Constitution to ensure adequate representation of the Anglo-Indian community in the House. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 15 Jan 85 p 9]

BURMA BORDER CURFEW--Imphal, Jan 8--The Manipur Government has clamped night curfew on a 20-km stretch along the India-Burma border in Chandel district in view of the activities of the underground Nagas, reports UNI. The curfew, imposed Sunday night, will be in force for two months, according to an official notification. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 9 Jan 85 p 5]

PILOTS TO UK--New Delhi, Jan 6--The Indian Air Force is sending a team of 29 helicopter pilots to Britain for training on the new "Westland 30" helicopters which India has contracted to buy, reports UNI. All the pilots would be of the rank of squadron leaders. The helicopters would be used for the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and some would be inducted into the IAF's VIP squadron. The ONGC has a requirement of 21 Westland 30 helicopters. After the conversion training, the Indian pilots would return and train another 41 IAF helicopter pilots. These pilots would initially be sent on deputation to the ONGC and later many of them would be released from the Air Force to be absorbed into the ONGC. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 Jan 85 p 9]

BORDER FIRING INCIDENT--Krishnagar, Jan 2--Heavy firing was exchanged between the Border Security Force and the Bangladesh Rifles of Dohokhola, a village on the Indo-Bangladesh border yesterday. The firing started at 11.30 a.m. and continued till 6-30 p.m. The Bangladesh Rifles used light machine-guns and mortars. There were no casualties. According to official sources, the Border Security Force intervened after a group of Bangladeshi infiltrators came over to this side of the border and started forcible harvesting. When they were obstructed by the BSF and local residents, the Bangladeshis used sharp weapons. One of the BSF jawans was seriously injured. When the

Bangladeshis were escaping, the Bangladesh Rifles opened fire. Reinforcements were sent from the base camp of the BSF. A senior official visited the area. According to a Bangladesh newspaper, the Indians used heavy weapons, including mortars, adds AP. There were no casualties on the Bangladesh side, the Kushtia police chief said. UNI adds: About 300 people staged a demonstration in front of Indian High Commission office in Dhaka today in protest against what the organizers called "Indian interference into the internal affairs of Bangladesh." [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 3 Jan 85 p 1]

AID FROM SWISS--New Delhi, Jan 12--India and Switzerland have signed an agreement on Swiss assistance amounting to 40 million Swiss francs (Rs 19.32 crores) for financing rural development programmes for a period of two years, reports PTI. Under the agreement, the financial assistance will flow through the National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development for financing rural development operations in the context of the Integrated Rural Development Programmes of India. The agreement was signed by Mr J.S. Baijal, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Finance, and Mr Jean Cuendat, Ambassador of Switzerland to India, on behalf of their respective Governments. [Text] [Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 12 Jan 85 p 7]

BIHAR MINISTER RESIGNS--Patna, Jan 12--The former Bihar Minister, Mr Shankar Dayal Singh, yesterday resigned from the State Assembly following his election to the Lok Sabha from Dhanbad constituency, reports UNI. The Speaker, Mr Radhanandan Jha, accepted his resignation. With Mr Singh, seven people out of the 10 elected to the Lok Sabha have so far resigned from their Assembly membership. Those who are yet to resign are Mr Sarfaraj Ahmed, Mr Ramdeo Rai and Mr Gogeshwar Prasad Yogesh. [Text] [Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 12 Jan 85 p 7]

GUN PURCHASE PLANS--If all goes well, India would be acquiring the 155 mm gun including the SP (Self-propelled) version by the end of 1985. Talking to newsmen at the Artillery Centre, Nasik Road Camp on Thursday, Director of Artillery Lt General J.R. Malhotra said the negotiations with Italy and France on the guns which had to be called off due to "unusual circumstances" in the country would be resumed by the end of the month. The Director was hopeful of the negotiations bearing fruit by the end of the current financial year. India should be receiving the 155 mm gun from either Italy, which is the joint manufacturer of the latest design of the 155 mm guns with UK and West Germany and holds the sales licence for the combine or France, he said. The 155 mm guns which India plans to buy are of the mid-70's design more modern than the US-designed guns which Pakistan has acquired, Lt General Malhotra mentioned. Among the other plans of modernisation for the artillery, the Director mentioned high-technology computers for defence purposes. Talks on these were on with various countries, though the names could not be disclosed at this stage, he said. Discussions were also on, the Director noted, on the purchase of Air-defence guns which would be more modern than the Schilkas. As a part of the modernisation plan, the artillery division was also planning to acquire 2nd and 3rd generation Radars developed by BEL. Also on the cards were AOP (Air Observation Post) helicopters which could cope with night-flying. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Jan 85 p 6]

TNV REBELS ATTACK--Agartala, Jan 8 (PTI)--After a comparative lull in their activities for about a month, the Tripura National Volunteer Force (TNV) extremists struck in Tripura's North District today when they hacked to death six non-tribal labourers at Nunacherra village, about 150 km from here this afternoon. The police said a 16-member gang, armed with sophisticated weapons and in olive-green uniform, raided the village and caught hold of six labourers working in the field, while others fled in panic. The victims were trussed to nearby trees and hacked to death, the police said. [Text] [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 9 Jan 85 p 1]

GANDHI ON U.S. ARMS--Rae Bareli, Jan 15 (UNI)--Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has said that India would accept the US offer to supply sophisticated defence equipment but only on certain conditions. India would have to take into account the performance and competitive cost of the equipment and "there should be no binding clauses or strings attached to the offer." Mr Gandhi expressed these views in an interview with UNI at Salon where he addressed a public meeting at the end of a one-day thanksgiving tour of the Amethi Lok Sabha constituency yesterday. There have been reports from Washington that the US government was willing to supply sophisticated defence equipment to India. Some of the US Senators who were in Delhi recently also affirmed the US government's willingness. Asked whether as chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement he would take any fresh initiative on the West Asia crisis, Mr Gandhi said "We are chalking out a full length programme for the Non-Aligned Movement. As soon as it is ready we would take such an initiative." [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Jan 85 p 1]

DMKP GENERAL SECRETARY--Bangalore, Jan 15 (UNI)--Dalit Mazdoor Kisan Party (DMKP) general secretary A.K. Subbaiah today resigned his post. In a letter to party president Charan Singh, copies of which were released to the press here, Mr Subbaiah said he was resigning to take an independent stand with respect to the Janata Party in the coming Assembly elections. He said his stand of opposing the ruling Janata Party and its ally in Karnatak, the Bharatiya Janata Party, was at variance with the stand taken by the DMKP at the national level. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Jan 85 p 1]

NEW GOA MINISTRY--Panaji, Jan 8--A three-member Council of Ministers for Goa, Daman and Diu headed by Mr Pratapsinh Rane was sworn in at the Cabo Raj Niwas this evening. The Lt Governor, Mr Gopal Singh, administered the oath of office and secrecy to the members of the new Government at an impressive ceremony organised on the Raj Niwas lawns overlooking the Arabian Sea. The two others sworn in were Mr Shaikh Hassan Haroon and Mr Francisco Sardinha, Revenue and Agriculture Ministers in the outgoing Ministry.--UNI [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 9 Jan 85 p 1]

PASSPORT RULES TIGHTENED--New Delhi, Jan 11--The Ministry of External Affairs at the instance of the Home Ministry, has tightened police clearance procedures for the issue of passports as part of the new security regulations.

Hitherto, a regional passport officer (RPO) had the option to issue a passport if police clearance was not received within a month. But now he is required to wait for a reply from the local CID before issuing it. The Government had learnt that the one-month rule was being used by applicants with doubtful antecedents to get police clearance delayed, to obtain their passports without it. But the Government has decided to insist on prior police clearance to prevent extremists and others on suspect lists from leaving the country. After the Punjab crisis, the Government clamped visa restrictions on all foreigners including those of Indian origin with foreign passports. Now, in the wake of the recent events, it has decided to tighten passport rules as well. This has led to bitter complaints of inordinate delay in the issue of passports and even unnecessary harassment by police professing to check the antecedents of the applications, putting even bona fide applicants to a lot of trouble. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Jan 85 p 1]

INDO-ITALIAN ENERGY COOPERATION--New Delhi, Jan 15--India and Italy have agreed to cooperate in a number of areas of non-conventional energy systems, reports PTI. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 16 Jan 85 p 9]

SOVIET-MADE TANKS--Madras, Jan 15--"The Russian made T-72 tank, which we will soon produce is only an interim measure. But it will not be outdated and can keep us going for some time to come," Maj Gen K.M. Dhody, Commandant of the Armoured Corps Centre and School, Ahmednagar, told pressmen from Madras who visited the centre last week. The Commandant said the T-72 was still one of the best tanks in the world, especially for the developing countries. Besides importing some tanks, India has also acquired the contract to manufacture them in the country, keeping in mind the delay in producing the indigenous Main Battle Tank (MBT). Maj Gen Dhody admitted that the MBT had a few problems in its evolution but the experts in charge of its design were confident of overcoming them. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 16 Jan 85 p 7]

CSO: 4600/1309

IRAN

IRNA DECRIES U.S. REPORT ON IRAN'S OPIUM PRODUCTION

LD171810 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 17 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, 17 Feb, IRNA--In a recently published report, the United States' State Department has named Iran as one of the world's eight biggest producers of opium and has asked the Reagan administration to stop its aid to those countries which do not control opium production, including Iran.

This report has come out at a time when in the last session of the Interpol which was held last September with the participation of 141 countries, a report by the Iranian police chief explaining the details of Iran's approach to checking drug smuggling was translated into several languages and distributed among the participants who lauded Iran's efforts in this respect. It is interesting to note that the only voice of dissent against the Iranian report at the last Interpol session came from the U.S. representative.

Also in a recent official report published here it was said that during the past five years some 131 tons of narcotics have been seized from international and local narcotics smugglers and that 83,000 of them have been arrested by Iranian guardsmen.

At the same time, one should note that there are many reports coming from various international news agencies all pointing to the fact that in the United States of America, marijuana is the most profitable crop after corn. These reports say that in 1984, Mafia and its cadres pocketed more than 16 billion dollars from their dealing in marijuana.

What is happening is that at present, the Great Satan (America) is looking at what used to be called the Golden Triangle comprising Laos, Thailand and Burma from where hundreds of thousands of tons of drugs are smuggled, and is talking about cutting aid to Iran, an aid which does not exist in reality.

What is happening in fact is that, the U.S. Government, in order to fight the Islamic Republic of Iran which is involved in a serious war against international drug smugglers, has resorted to the techniques which remind one of the kind of propaganda ploys Hitler's propaganda chief Goebbels, used to employ. The German propaganda chief during World War II used to combine together several lies and present them to the public with the objective of implanting one of these fabrications in peoples' minds.

The American ploy of combining opium cultivation and the bogus aid to Iran was exactly the same technique used by Goebbels. To claim that the United States is giving the Islamic Republic aid is not a new trick of Zionist-influenced propaganda media. It is in fact a repeat of an old ploy to implant in the minds of an unwary public the idea that Iran encourages opium cultivation.

No doubt, one can now wait and see how Zionist-controlled organizations will come up with so-called documentary films and reports to expand this whole lie and make hapless people believe this new accusation of imperialists against Iran.

It is interesting to note that the State Department report calls on President Reagan not to stop American assistance to Bolivia and Peru despite the significant increase in these two countries' drug production. The reason the report gives for making this advice to Reagan is that American assistance to these countries might be instrumental in solving drug addiction problems in these countries.

CSO: 4600/267

IRAN

TUDEH LEADERS ATTACK KHOMEYNI REGIME AT PRESS CONFERENCE

London KEYHAN in Persian 31 Jan 85 p 16

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] Rahim Namvar, Siavosh Kasra'i and Reza Maqsadi, three leaders of the Tudeh Party of Iran, last month participated in the conference of the "Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization" in Kabul.

Attending were 60 delegates from 41 countries representing communist governments and organizations.

During the conference, Rahim Namvar, the editor of SHAHBAZ newspaper outlined the political situation in Iran at a news conference and said the country is going through bitter and bloody days.

Reza Maqsadi referred to the suppression of freedoms and fascist conditions dominant in prisons of the Islamic Republic, saying: Because of the lunatic behavior of the regime's scimitar-wielders, even certain unusual movements of people in the streets could land them in the regime's slaughterhouses.

Siavosh Kasra'i, poet and writer who managed to escape from Iran when Tudeh leaders were being apprehended, said at a news conference: Following the severe strangulation and censorship of the press and the collection of books from all bookstores, hundreds of intellectuals and talented individuals found themselves in prison and numerous handwritten works of Iranian poets and writers have been burned.

This stupendous treason has coincided with the savage attack against Iran's universities. The regime's grudge against art and culture has produced a 'cultural revolution' which has led to the ouster from universities of hundreds of progressive and dedicated professors and thousands of revolutionary and democratic students. The printing of progressive newspapers and publications which had a big share as a result of the revolution in disseminating progressive thought has been banned.

Journalists and reporters are either in prison facing the danger of execution, have been forced to flee their homeland or are in their homes awaiting surprise night attacks by Khomeyni's forces. Heavy blows struck

by the Islamic Republic at the arts and artistic creativity has no equal in any other period in the political-social history of Iran.

Most of the cultured writers and individuals of talent are either in prison or have been executed while others have been forced to seek refuge in other countries and the activities of those remaining in the country are being curtailed. Our national and progressive music has been replaced with sad lamentations. Gloomy tunes are heard from all sides. Only one art remains in the Islamic Republic--the skill of the ruling regime's leaders who have converted Iran into a funeral home.

Rahim Namvar, one of the three majority representatives in the Kabul conference, also referred to the torture of Tudeh Party leaders in prison and pointed out that they have been forced to make statements under torture and the influence of narcotic drugs and now their lives are in danger.

5854

CSO: 4640/326

IRAN

OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN IRAN SAID TO BE 'OUT OF THE QUESTION'

London KEYHAN in Persian 7 Feb 85 p 5

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh.
An analysis by Bizhan Irandust]

[Text] Even worse than Iraq...even worse than Libya...even worse than Haiti...this is the world judgment regarding the human rights situation in Iran.

The book entitled "World Human Rights Guide" has been compiled with the cooperation of more than 20 international specialized agencies, including Amnesty International, Society Against Slavery, United Nations and WHO.

The book includes all nations of the world according to each continent.

From the human rights point of view, assessment of conditions in various countries has been drawn up according to a series of scientific questions and in most cases governments have participated in the preparation of answers. The questions were based on the Declaration of Human Rights and the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights.

Each of the articles of the Declaration and the Convention have been assigned percentile ratings so that a country which observes all relevant conditions gets a 100, indicating full compliance with human rights.

The Guide shows that in the present era no country achieves a 100 percent rating, that is no country fully observes human rights.

The writers of "Guide" are of the opinion that in the contemporary world, over-all compliance with human rights is only 58 percent of the 100 percent goal. In other words, opponents of human rights and those who trample upon the International Declaration are in the minority.

Canada stands first in the Western Hemisphere with a 94 percent rating. The United States has 92 percent, Panama 84--good rating levels.

Mexico with 64 percent, Chili with 37 and Cuba with 30 percent indicate differences in conditions in the hemisphere.

In Africa, Senegal gets the highest rating with 84 percent followed by Egypt with 64 percent and Morocco with 58 percent, the two latter being considered good marks. South Africa's 30 percent and Ethiopia's 17 percent are representative of the plummeting of human rights values on the black continent.

Japan tops the list with 92 percent in Asia, followed by Hong Kong with 86 percent. Most Asian countries get bad marks: Saudi Arabia 29 percent, Iraq 27 percent, Vietnam 29 percent, Pakistan 42 percent, North Korea 22 percent.

Oceania is the only continent where the human rights situation is very good.

Australia is in a good position with 93 percent but New Zealand has first place with 98 percent. Papua-New Guinea is one of the few countries in the 'Third World' having a high-place score.

In Europe: Holland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland hold high places with marks between 94 and 96 percent. Switzerland, Austria, Federal Germany, Britain, Belgium and Luxembourg also have higher than 91 percent ratings. France, Italy, Spain and Portugal have between 82 and 88 percent.

It can be assumed that the human rights situation is not quite brilliant in socialist countries. Yugoslavia is the highest scorer among them with 55 percent. The Soviet Union is on the lower rung with 27 percent whereas Hungary comes close to the average overall international mark with 54 percent. Poland gets 36 percent, East Germany 35 percent.

There are countries in all continents where the human rights situation is so bad that they are not assigned any rating; among them the Islamic Republic, Albania, Afghanistan, El Salvador, Kampuchea, Paraguay and Southern Yemen.

Interestingly enough, Iran was among the first designers and signatories of the International Declaration of Human Rights while the principles of the international convention on civil rights and political freedoms was prepared in Tehran in 1968. The Tehran conference, which was held to mark the 20th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights, approved a resolution which became known as the Tehran Declaration, forming the basis for new changes in the approach to human rights in the past 17 years.

The Sad Situation in Iran

In its summary of the situation in the Islamic Republic the book notes: It is impossible, under present conditions, to complete the questionnaire in regard to Iran. Nearly any act, expression of opinion or mistake could lead to the gallows.

A people who had become accustomed to a modern Western way of life now feel it is prudent to return to a traditional way of living. The regime's opposition to progress can be discerned from two reported comments by Ayatollah Khomeini who says: "All our woes are caused by universities"; "The universities are more dangerous than bombs."

It can therefore be said that following the fall of the monarchy Iran has been in the grip of a religious, social and vocational crisis. The war with Iraq and clashes with the Kurds and other minorities has resulted in the strengthening of the regime of the mullahs and more excesses under the pretext of "The Great Islamic Revolution." These excesses do not come only from religious courts but are participated in by unruly groups from among fanatical and paramilitary supporters of the "regime."

Belonging to a religious minority, such as Bahai and Jewish, has also resulted in executions while torture is justified in the name of "cherishing Islam." The freedom of expression is not tolerated, opposition newspapers are banned and domestic travel or departure from the country are severely controlled. Women must follow Koranic prescripts. The "chador", a total cover, became mandatory for all women in 1981.

Under present conditions in the country, human rights do not have the least meaning. The number of executions have sometimes exceeded 100 per day. A religious judge by the name of Ayatollah Mohammad Gilani, justifying the execution of children in 1981 said: According to Islamic law a 9-year-old girl is considered an adult, is not different from a 40-year-old man and we can therefore carry out any verdict against her.

5854

CSO: 4640/353

IRAN

OIL, SCIENTIFIC CONTRACT SIGNED WITH BULGARIA

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 26 Jan 85 p 2

[Text]

TEHRAN (IRNA)— A one-year contract for economic, technical and scientific cooperation was signed between Iran and Bulgaria at the conclusion of the visit of a Bulgarian delegation to Iran, yesterday.

The contract was signed by Iran's Minister of Agriculture Abbasali Zali and Foreign Trade Minister of Bulgaria Khristo Khristov who arrived here on Jan. 21.

According to the contract, the volume of trade between the two countries is predicted to become doubled for the next year.

Prior to his departure, Khristov said that Bulgaria will export machinery, chemicals, oil products, foodstuff, metal products and spare parts to Iran and will import oil, concentrated metals, cotton, cars, mini-buses, agricultural goods, light industries and citrus from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He added that a plan was prepared for mutual cooperation in the fields of heavy industries, agriculture, mines, geology, and exchange of experts and technical know-how.

In a meeting of Bulgarian Foreign Trade Minister with economic officials of Iran, the contract for the purchase of 1.250 million tons of Iranian oil by Bulgaria was extended for 1985.

During his visit to Iran, the Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Trade met President Khamenei here Wednesday. In his meeting the Bulgarian officials told President Khamenei that his country looks forward to expanding her trade relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

President Khamenei in response welcomed the proposal and said that as a basic policy Iran would look forward to expanding relations with any foreign country which should duly respect the interests of the Islamic Republic.

He said Iran would also welcome expansion of relations in collaboration with the Bulgarian government in the area of agriculture and technology.

The Bulgarian minister has been in Tehran since Monday as head of a delegation at the joint Iran-Bulgarian annual meeting on economic cooperation.

In another meeting the Iranian Minister of Mines and Metals, Hussein Nili Ahmad-Abadi, said to the Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Trade Khristo Khristov Wednesday that Iran and Bulgaria could well develop their trade relations in the area of concentrated metals and minerals.

The Bulgarian minister told the Iranian official that Bulgaria and Iran could

exchange technology in the area of cutting ornamental minerals. He pointed out that his country has extensive experience in mineral and soil technology.

The Bulgarian official and the Iranian minister agreed that prospects of future cooperation in this area be reviewed by a Bulgarian delegation accompanying the Bulgarian minister in his visit to Tehran and the Deputy Ministers of the Mines and Metals Ministry of Iran.

CSO: 4600/249

PAKISTAN

ELECTION CONTRADICTION OF PARTY REGISTRATION SCORED

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 14 Jan 85 p 3

[Editorial: "Party Basis of Nonparty Elections"]

[Text] Since President Ziaul Haq has announced the date for the elections, there is no point in trying to hinder or sabotage them. It is better to accept them so that this unlucky country gets some sort of a civil government. In this way, we shall get rid of the martial law and our country will start afresh on the road to democracy. Accepting the elections, however, does not mean that we cannot scrutinize all their implications and have to leave pertinent things unsaid. First of all, we should remember that the announcement about nonparty elections was made after the unanimous demand of all political parties for elections on a party basis was rejected. These people were naturally disappointed, but those who wanted to have elections on a nonparty basis are also disappointed, since the elections will not be entirely nonparty. They are based on a party system since only those people who belong to a (defunct) registered political party can take part. To be truly nonparty, the elections should have been held without reference to any political party at all. It is paradoxical to demand that the defunct political parties be registered and that elections be held on this basis.

All this is the negation of the Ansari Commission report. The chief argument in favor of nonparty elections was that Islam does not allow political parties. But according to this new order, registered political parties can and nonregistered parties cannot take part in the elections. Another point in favor of nonpolitical elections was that it would put an end to the mutual enmity caused by clashing political parties and save the country from the possibility of a civil war. But now, just before the elections, will dividing the nation into those who do and those who do not belong to a registered political party not lead to a clash once more? Would it not be better to keep the elections nonparty in letter as well as in spirit? Again, the responsible members of nonregistered parties also have not been given equal treatment. There is one group among them that has passed the test of eligibility and is participating in the government. Another group of the same people would become eligible if they got into the good books of the president. There is another group of people who will not be allowed to participate in the elections even if they gave up their slogan of

boycotting the elections. The reason for making political parties the basis for nonpolitical elections is quite unintelligible. The standard for a Muslim candidate has been decided: he should have a good moral character and a knowledge of Islam. Those who are immoral or against the ideology of Pakistan cannot take part in the elections. Was that not sufficient? Why have suitable people from nonregistered parties been barred from taking part in the elections? In view of the national situation and the foreign threat, it would have been in the national interest to have tried to bring the dissidents into the fold and explain to them the need for a united national government. But nothing was done in that direction. The doors are being closed by artificial means on a very important and large segment in the country. The results of this step will bode no good for the country. It is true that the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] and the NAP [National Awami Party] had some undesirable individuals in them, but the condition of having an upright moral character was quite enough to have kept these people out of the elections. Why not let the public learn to spot evil characters and choose only the good ones? Even if this is not the aim of the present elections, will the registered parties be free from undesirable people, and will those people not take part in the elections? The rules that keep evil characters out of the registered parties can also be used against evil elements in the unregistered parties. As the elections are to be nonparty, the question of the registration of parties should not arise. Having double standards for eligibility for taking part in elections will hurt the spirit of honest and free elections.

The unregistered parties had in them many worthy and patriotic persons who either for political reasons or for the natural desire to be a part of the ruling party joined the previous regime or regimes. As Mian Tufail Mohammad, leader of the Jamaat-e Islami has said, it is unfair to dub all these people unpatriotic. Mian Tufail Mohammad has also demanded that the Shoora be broken up and the ministers be relieved of their duties. In answer to him, it is said that it is not done in other countries. Well, are we following other countries in other matters connected with elections? Why not set a good example for other countries? This will ensure an impartial election, since no minister will be there to get his own pet candidate elected. Surely the guarantee for having impartial elections is worth a few ministers and members of the Shoora. These lines have been written in the hope that definite steps will be taken in the right direction, in view of the situation in the country, to make the elections more impartial.

12476

CSO: 4656/76

PAKISTAN

ELECTIONS: REGIME'S INTENTIONS, PROCEDURES QUESTIONED

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 17 Jan 85 pp 5-6

[Editorial: "The Manifesto"]

[Text] EXCEPT for the announcement of a time-frame for the oft-postponed general election, the CMLA-President said nothing in his address to the people last Saturday that was new or unanticipated. All the main points of the Manifesto which he outlined with reasonable brevity had been elaborated and explained on a number of previous occasions by General Zia-ul Haq himself. Critics who charge that the head of the Martial Law regime lacks credibility will have to admit that at least over the last three years or more, Government's policy statements have been consistent, and that during this period nothing more was promised than what has now been delivered. The scheme enforced envisages that Islamization of the polity will take place not on the basis of a national political consensus to be tested in a freely-elected parliament, but in accordance with the interpretation, will and wish of the country's military rulers. This objective had been made perfectly plain on a number of occasions, defining the powers to be exercised in this regard not only as an Islamic duty but also as arising from the authority said to be vested in the

CMLA by the Supreme Court with its compromise judgement in the Nusrat Bhutto case.

In accordance with this esoteric concept of Islamic democracy, the system to which the people are being led rests on what has been called Shoocracy or the legislatures' privilege to advise the Government on all pertinent matters. It is mainly on this account that we have moved away from the initial concept adumbrated in explanation and justification of Operation Fair Play to one that does not cater for the transfer of power but provides merely for what is described as power-sharing. This means in effect that the status quo will be maintained, except for the fact that the Majlis now nominated by Government will be replaced by a body that has been elected by the people. The election as far as the voters are concerned is intended to be free and fair, and the shenanigans witnessed during the Referendum will presumably not be allowed. However, candidature will severely be restricted, and it may be said that, by and large, it will be confined to those persons or groups who are acceptable to the present regime. The disqualifications

listed are extensive and the positive qualifications required are so vague that the Election Commission will exercise wide powers and take decisions on terms that are not easily justifiable. It will, for example, sit in judgement on whether or not an intending candidate is a good Muslim, has sufficient knowledge of the non-sectarian teachings of Islam, and enjoys the reputation of being righteous, honest and just. This is apart from the usual provision that he must not have been convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude. Further, past association with any ruling party during the Seventies, or holding office in an unregistered political party, will be a bar to candidature unless the intending candidate has been vetted for nomination to the Federal Majlis or Provincial Councils, has accepted membership of the Federal or Provincial Cabinets, or can gain exemption from the highest source of authority in the Government. It has also been laid down that no candidate who has opposed the Ideology of Pakistan after (not before) its establishment will be allowed to take part in the contest. Here again, no generally acceptable definition of the Pakistan Ideology is available and the Election Commission will probably be given a yardstick of some sort by which to judge a person's loyalty to the State and its undefined Ideology — which many often tend to misinterpret as allegiance to the Government in power.

As for the resumption of political activity, this has been restricted to door-to-door canvassing and indoor meetings; open political meetings, processions and the use of loud-speakers will remain banned. Considering that the elections

are anyhow supposed to be conducted on a non-party basis, the confinement of political activity to small groups strengthens the fear that votes will be sought and voting will be determined by personal alliances, caste affiliations, and promises that have little to do with public weal. The pattern and style of the electoral process will make it difficult for the people to pay heed to the CMLA-President's appeal for voting in accordance with their desire to see the country move forward on the path to progress and consolidation. While such matters as Assembly seats were dealt with in great detail, the CMLA-President did not indicate what amendments would be made in the 1973 Constitution. Already the provisions made for the elections emasculate many of the Constitution's salient features. If further amendments change its structure, the absence of its formal abrogation will remain a meaningless gesture. Further, and on this point the public expectation had been slightly different, it has been made known that Martial Law will not be lifted for some months after the new assemblies have been inducted into office. The explanation that the new governments may need to be bolstered in the beginning is not really valid. Many are likely to believe that the desire for continuity is so strong that it rules out all possibility of change.

Seemingly, the Government has accepted the advice of those among its supporters who have little faith in the declarations repeated every day that the Manifesto given by the CMLA-President and the policy-statements of his Ministers enjoy overwhelming support among the mass of the people. If

these gentlemen really had the confidence they profess, it should not have been necessary to adopt such a narrow approach to the democratic process. Gen. Ziaul Haq, if he can recall his remarks against sycophancy at his first Press Conference in Rawalpindi after the military take-over, will agree that the bane of politics in countries like Pakistan is that many people, particularly the class of professional feudal politicians, go along with whoever wields the sceptre simply because they want to get along. How many adherents of today's Islamic fundamentalism were advocates of a socialist economy and a democratic polity not very long ago? And what will make these weather-cocks change direction once again? Finally, another aspect of the strait-jacket election is that final decision-making has been made very much easier for the MRD leadership, because the lobbies wanting rapprochement with the regime on the basis of a more acceptable political plan have had to surrender to the majority opinion. In a way, this is regrettable, because the substantial section of our people under the MRD's influence will regard the forthcoming election in the same manner as they treated last month's Referendum. It would have been better by far if the third general election in our politically-barren history had been held with common consent, so that its verdict would be accepted without any hesitation, both at home and abroad, as expression of the people's political will.

PAKISTAN

ELECTIONS TERMED 'UNCERTAIN POLITICAL EXPERIMENT'

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 17 Jan 85 p 9

[Article by Ayaz Amir]

[Text]

THERE WERE few surprises in Gen. Ziaul Haq's much-awaited, but curiously anti-climactic, address to the nation on January 12. It was as if he was going through a familiar routine, every detail of which was known to his audience.

For once an explicit reference to that timeless phrase 'positive results' was missing. But in other respects every device one could think of to ensure that cherished outcome was in place. Partyless elections, separate electorates (a throwback, if one cares to think about it, to the *divide et impera* principle of the British), massive disqualifications, curbs on mass electioneering, and a Martial Law Order (No. 102, the number itself giving an idea of the impetus to law-making given by Martial Law) prohibiting any attempt to obstruct, hinder or propagate against the holding of elections in any manner, were some of the formidable constituents of the election package unveiled by the CMLA-President.

Disqualification

More thought seemed to have gone into the disqualification clauses than into anything else. Office-bearers of all parties which did not get the sacrament of registration in 1979 have been debarred from the polls. The list is indeed exhaustive and includes all office-bearers of such parties from December 1971, when the PPP came to power, to October 1979, when the axe finally fell on the political parties. It also includes

all PPP Federal and provincial Ministers, Ministers of State and Advisers. Politicians disqualified earlier by Martial Law tribunals have had their term of disqualification extended for another seven years which is a somewhat superfluous provision because people who fall in this category are sure to have already come under the mischief of one or the other disqualifying clause. This takes care of the defunct PPP as well as most of the rest of the MRD. Not surprisingly, Shooru members and past and present Ministers of the present Government are exempted as are those whom the President in his discretion may choose to exempt, *suo moto*, or at their application. This should clear the path for all prospective Sadiq Qureshis.

As usual the rhetoric of Islamisation has been employed to justify these measures. Gen. Zia's speech was steeped in references to Islamic unity and the need to bury all differences (which must sound quaint in the ears of those hauled up at the Nila Gumbad Mosque). The sweeping rhetoric at times elicited picturesque results. Urging the nation to banish hypocrisy and duplicity, the CMLA-President said that those "who simultaneously bowed before Allah and circled around idols" should not be allowed to come forward at all. What most people make of another piquant observation is also hard to tell. While recognising the need for a "free exchange of ideas and diff-

ferences of opinion", Gen. Zia emphasised that "ultimately all differences should be referred back to Allah and his Prophet for their resolution." Laudable as this objective is, how does one translate it into practice? Surely it is not being suggested that the future national security council or the existing military council will be able to interpret this high function? This was an argument employed by the Catholic Church, that it was the arbiter of heavenly decrees, hence it is possible to conclude that references of this kind were best avoided.

Small objections

All the same, these are small objections. The main thing is that in announcing elections in accordance with the August 12 plan, all the evidence pointing to its shortcomings has been rather magisterially disregarded. The belief seems to be that somehow every thing will pass which in other climes is known as the politics of muddling through. That may well be the case but is it really being supposed that the August 12 plan has popular sanction behind it or that it is the Holy Grail whose possession will resolve once and for all the country's protracted constitutional crises? Had that been the case Sind would not have erupted in flames in 1983 nor would the Referendum have plumbed such enormous depths of indifference. Given the external and internal advantages they enjoy for the time being, the powers that be can probably push

through any political experiment they like, but they are not in a position to gild it with the stamp of popular approval, like taking a horse to the water but not being able to make it drink.

This is not a happy situation. The elections in India have strengthened the country's unity and enhanced its international prestige. What sort of an effect will our elections have which will take place in a divided and a confused polity? The way they are being conducted will serve only to draw the battle lines still harder. Perhaps the regime genuinely has few options. Since it is keeping the political situation on a short leash, it may fear that any loosening might make things slip out of control. (This explains the crackdown in Lahore.) While this may be true, because any system of government which lacks a popular base, appearances notwithstanding, is inherently unstable, the question is how long can this go on? And what will be the ultimate price of such persistence? Is it being thought that the structure now being put together will have the stability which Ayub Khan's system of government, for all its outward pomp and show, lacked and which Yahya Khan's never possessed? On both occasions, the nation paid a heavy price for political shortsightedness. Can we afford to pay anything of the kind again? This is the fear making people uneasy as they passively await the unfolding of yet another uncertain political experiment.

PAKISTAN

ELECTION BOYCOTT DEPLORED

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 23 Jan 85 Supplement p I

[Article by Razaur Rahman]

[Text]

THE Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Religious Affairs, Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq, has deplored the MRD decision to boycott the election. It sadly demonstrated, he said, an utter lack of understanding and political foresight.

Raja Sahib said that these leaders could not rise to the occasion and failed to realise the national requirements under the existing conditions.

The Minister's remarks are in no wise misplaced, for with due respect to the eminent leaders assembled in Abbottabad, they seem to have ignored the creative possibilities of their participation in the forthcoming elections. Maybe it is not the ideal set-up; and there can be no question about their attachment to the Constitution of 1973.

Even in the imperfect conditions, their participation could have brought immeasurable gains to the nation, with intellect rating higher than glamour in the public reaction to the competition between politicians of standing and repute and new contenders of indeterminate credentials.

The country is passing through a period of crisis, being assailed by dangers and uncertainties in the region. The CMLA's gesture of lifting the ban on many politicians formerly disqualified ought to have ushered in an era of good feel-

ing; and instead of a timid doctrinaire approach, leaders who know that politics is the art of the possible should have seized the opportunity to put an end to more than seven years of Martial Law and move towards representative rule in the country.

The Jamaat-i-Islami chief, Maulana Tufail Mohammad had put the case for participation succinctly when he said in reply to a question that any kind of representative civilian rule would be preferable to the continuation of Martial Law. It was Abraham Lincoln who once posed the question: "Is it possible to lose the nation and yet defend the Constitution?"

As for the shining faith that in the MRD spokesman's words, the 1973 Constitution "is the anchor of Pakistan's national solidarity and integrity", not a few strident voices have been raised from time to time by political elements to demand changes in certain provisions of the Constitution of 1973.

Rather than the accepted principle of federalism, it has even been claimed that there exists a vacuum between federal and provincial power and that a confederation was more suited to a society still permeated with inequality.

The President has not abrogated the Constitution; and his feeling is widely shared that there ought to be a better balance between the powers of the Prime Minister and the Presi-

dent, the last-named being an ineffectual figurehead in the 1973 document.

The decision to hold the polls on a non-party basis has been apparently taken in the knowledge that voters have been befuddled by the unedifying spectacle of internal squabbles in the political parties and the inter-party muck-raking. Most of them are reluctant to form any political allegiance at all. Instead of having a party identification — meaningless in the absence of a positive and concrete programme — it is better that elected representatives should have their primary allegiance to their constituents.

One recalls that the last general elections, held by an elected government, were such a grotesque parody of the term and such a farce that the country itself was brought to the verge of internal collapse. The military intervention was therefore accepted by the Supreme Court under the Doctrine of Necessity.

It fell to a military regime to create the appropriate conditions for the restoration of democracy. The task was not simply holding elections. It was also one of rebuilding national identity that could enable people to transcend communal consciousness, of creating a national soul to animate the physical structure of nationhood.

President Zia-ul-Haq's government attended to task by carving the contours of a truly Islamic identity, and he postulated Islam as the basis of political stability. Islamisation has been going apace under his resolute leadership and, as Referendum of December 19 amply demonstrated, he has the solid backing of the vast majority of the people for his vision of the national polity.

The President has reasons to take a dim view of the scram-

ble for power among political gladiators. He cannot but deplore the parochialism and petty politicking and the absence of a responsible political ethic that has been the experience of the past. The pronouncements of some of the malcontents could not fail to prompt shivers of apprehensions about the future among patriotic people.

He is now set to fulfil his promise to restore democracy in which Sovereignty rests with Almighty Allah and in which true Islamic equality prevails. There will be no place for territorial nationalism, in fact, for no other "ism", save commitment to Islam as a complete code of life.

Through a series of legislative and administrative measures the Government are making a determined effort to ensure that the elections are free and fair. The Election Commission has issued instructions in respect of filing of nomination papers, scrutiny, supply of electoral rolls, etc to afford all possible assistance to intending candidates. In a press release it has emphasised that the right to franchise and to contest election is the most valuable right, and no one entitled to it may be deprived of it on the basis of trivialities.

There is widespread enthusiasm among the people as they look forward to a bright future, a profound transformation in political and social values. In the movement away from the uncertainties and instabilities of the past, political leaders with a positive national vision have to make a distinctive, in fact decisive, contribution. There should be no room for pretentious idealism preventing their participation or dogmatism holding them back from an imaginative apprehension of objective realities.

PAKISTAN

CHINA DELIVERS TORPEDO BOATS TO PAKISTAN

Kuala Lumpur ASIAN DEFENCE JOURNAL in English Dec 84 pp 21-72

[Article by Keith Shreves]

[Text]

These photographs (courtesy of Keith Shreves) show the four Pakistani Huangfen PTGs on their way to Pakistan. The powered barge "Honghe-kou" made the delivery some time between late April and early May this year. The pennant numbers of the PTGs are 301 through 304. This indicates that a new series of numbers has been assigned to this class of vessels. The Pakistani "Huangfens" appear to be standard and similar to those versions previously built for the Chinese Navy.

The "Huangfen" can trace its origin to the Soviet "Osa-I" class PTG (missile attack craft). Later versions built in China are about 175 tons standard and 210 to 215 tons full load; again, depending on customer requirements. Each vessel carries four launchers for the "Hai Ying" HY-2/SEA EAGLE which is a derivative of the Russian SS-N-2/STYX SSM. There is also a coastal defence version of the HY-2 SSM which is believed to have an extended fuselage and greater range.

The difference between the "basic" Huangfen and the "Osa-I" is in the armament. The Chinese PTG is fitted with two twin 25mm/80 calibre anti-aircraft gun mounts (fore and aft) and furthermore the Chinese craft has a reinforced, folding mast. The last mentioned item enables the "Huangfens" to use the coastal-caves which have been developed as base facilities. The "Huangfen" also has six portholes forward on each side.

Soviet M-503A diesels are used; three units per craft. Normal cruising speed is about 25 knots while attack speed is around 35 knots. The "Huangfens" have a range of approximately 800nm which can be extended to between 1,400nm and 1,500 nm if an economical cruise speed of 12 to 14 knots is maintained. This range is attained with a fuel capacity of 50 to 55 tons of diesel. The crew comprises five officers and 25 ratings.

Pakistani's "Huangfens" were built at the Guangzhon Shipyard, South China. The Pakistan Navy also operates 4 Chinese-built "Hegu" PTGs (68 tons — two "HY-2" SSMs); "Hainan" class PCS; 12 "Shanghai-II" PTFs; and 4 "Huchuan" hydrofoil torpedo boats held in reserve. ■

PHOTO CAPTIONS

◄ All four "Huangfens" shown in the well deck. Access hatches are apparent in the bows. The vessels are of steel construction. Slight ribbing is evident on the "HY-2" missile launchers, including the raised portion amidships. Two smoke-float launcher racks can be seen on the sterns. When launching missiles, it is required that the bridge be vacated, as the missiles pass almost over portions of the open bridge.

▼ Pennant number 301. Atop the mast (canvas covered) is the SQUARE TIE surface search radar, which also functions as a missile tracking radar for the "HY-2" missile. Two periscopes appear to be located atop the bridge, possibly for night vision or low light visibility conditions.

► Delivery vessel of the Chinese merchant marine, the HONGHEKOU, a powered barge employed in delivering Chinese-built light craft to a number of countries (Bangladesh, Pakistan, etc.) The four "Huangren" fast attack craft (missile) can be seen in the well-deck area. HONGHEKOU operates out of Guangzhou, south China.

▼ "Huangfen" pennant number 304, lashed to the deck of the delivery vessel HONGHEKOU. The nearest PTG provides a good view of the Chinese-developed folding mast, with the hinged section located at the bottom for folding the mast rearwards. The two 25mm/80 calibre canvas covered, AA gun mounts, form the only gun armament of the craft. The open-type bridge is evident, as are the upward hinged doors for the "Hai Ying 2" missile launchers.

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