

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether this training centre will be under the direct control and supervision of the UNESCO or whether India also will have a part to play in it?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: There is no specific question of the type before us just at present.

Mr. Speaker: He said that the whole question is under consideration. Next question.

COMMONWEALTH COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE

*871. **Shri C. R. Chowdary:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the British Army and Commonwealth Commanders' Conference is going to be held at Larkhill, Southern England, from June 25th to 27th, 1952;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Army Chiefs are attending the above conference;

(c) if the reply to part (b) above is in the affirmative, the purpose and necessity of attending the above Conference; and

(d) whether the decisions to be taken in the said Conference are binding on the Government of India?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) Yes.

(b) The Chief of the Army Staff and Commander-in-Chief, Army, General Cariappa and G.O.C.-in-C, Western Command, Lt.-Gen. S. M. Shrinagesh are attending this Conference.

(c) The object of the conference is to have discussions on professional matters of common interest to the Armies of the various countries concerned. These are valuable in that they enable us to have an idea of the progress and trends of military thought.

(d) No decisions as such will be taken and the question of their binding the Government of India does not and cannot arise.

Shri C. R. Chowdary: May I know whether the Government is aware of the announcement of the British War Office dated the 29th May last to the effect that this Conference would survey global strategy and discuss inter-Commonwealth defence problems?

Shri Gopalaswami: So far as we know, no such questions are going to

be considered by this Conference. All that we surmise will be discussed at this Conference are questions like new organisations of fighting formations; new types of weapons and equipment; modified application of principles of war as a result of new inventions of weapons, equipment etc. That is all that we know so far.

Shri C. R. Chowdary: May I know what is India's interest in discussing about the latest weapons, organisations of fighting formations, etc.?

Shri Gopalaswami: Professional interest.

Shri Meghnad Saha: Will the hon. Minister of Defence kindly consider the desirability of attaching some scientific men to the Commander because the new weapons are complicated and in order to appreciate their use it is necessary that some scientists should be attached to him?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He is mixing an argument with his question. The first part is a suggestion, but it may be answered: is it the idea of Government to ask some scientists to advise or help the Commander?

Shri Gopalaswami: This is a Conference at a very high level, that is to say, it is a Conference of the Commanders-in-Chief of the various countries concerned. Any scientific assistance they require will be got by each of them from their own scientific advisers, and the scientific advisers as such will not go into a Conference of this kind.

Shri Eswara Reddy: May I know whether the Government is going to contradict the announcement of the British War Office saying that this Conference was going to discuss global strategy and inter-Commonwealth defence problems?

Mr. Speaker: That question was put and answered a few minutes ago.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether the Government of India have any commitment to join in the common defence plan of the Commonwealth countries?

Shri Gopalaswami: No such commitment.

CENTRAL EXCISE STAFF IN ORISSA

*872. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the total strength of the Central Excise Staff of all grades in each district of the State of Orissa; and