

FORMATION OF ISLAMIC BLOC

*201. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government are aware that attempts have been made by Pakistan to form Islamic bloc of Muslim countries?

(b) How is it likely to affect the interests of India in the future?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Certain reports to this effect have appeared in newspapers. Government of India have no other information on this subject apart from what has appeared in the newspapers. It appears that the Prime Minister of Pakistan issued invitations to the Prime Ministers of twelve other countries to attend a conference in Karachi for discussing matters of common interest. It was intended to hold the conference on the 15th April, 1952 but this was postponed indefinitely.

(b) Since no conference has taken place, this question does not arise.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: Is the Government aware as to what was the object with which this Conference was being convened?

Mr. Speaker: How can the Government of India know their object.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: Has the Prime Minister any information as to how many of the parties or countries that were invited, actually accepted or agreed to attend the Conference?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am afraid I could not give any precise information immediately. But, so far as we know, some countries did not accept it.

Shri K. K. Basu: Will the Prime Minister state whether this conference was engineered by the machinations of the Anglo-American bloc.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He has spoiled the question by putting adjectives that are unnecessary. Next question.

SUEZ CANAL

*202. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether there is any attempt to internationalise the Suez Canal?

(b) How does it affect the interests of India?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Government have no information about any such attempt.

(b) Does not arise.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: What is the management under which the Suez Canal is working at present?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is a historical question and one may have to go into past history. I am perfectly prepared to do that; but it will take some time. It is more or less under British management today. Of course, under international conventions, various parties are connected with that. But, since the First World War, I think, the rights which the Government of Turkey had devolved on the British and since then the British Government has been the dominating factor there.

CANAL WATER DISPUTE

*203. **Giani G. S. Musafir:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the stage at which the Indo-Pakistan Canal Dispute is at present?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri Satish Chandra): The Canal Water Dispute is still under correspondence between the Government of India and Pakistan.

گہانی جی - ایس - مسافر : اس کا کب تک فیصلہ ہو جائے گی امید ہے -

[Giani G. S. Musafir: By what time is it expected to be settled?]

श्री सतीश चन्द्र : यह कहना बड़ा कठिन है ।

[Shri Satish Chandra: This is difficult to say.]

گہانی جی - ایس - مسافر : اس وقت تک کتنی میٹنگس ہو چکی ہیں -

[Giani G. S. Musafir: How many meetings have been held so far?]