

during his recent visit to Delhi regarding US plans for developing Diego Garcia island into a full-fledged military base in violation of the U.N. General Assembly resolution of the 16th December, 1971 calling for "a zone of Peace" in the Indian Ocean; and

(b) if so, the gist of the talk and the reaction of the U.S. side?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India's concern over the establishment of the base was conveyed to the U.S. Secretary of State. He reiterated the U.S. view that this did not constitute a threat to India or any of the littoral States.

Proposals for Solution of Cyprus Problems

1566. **SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India, along with some other countries of the non-aligned group, has worked out proposals for a solution of the Cyprus problem and has submitted the same to the U.N.;

(b) if so, the nature of the proposals and the likelihood of their being accepted; and

(c) the attitude towards the proposals of the various member-states of the Security Council?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The draft Resolution formulated by the group of five non-aligned countries calls upon all States to respect the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and non-alignment of the Republic of Cyprus; urges the speedy withdrawal of all foreign armed forces and foreign military presence and personnel from the Republic of Cyprus; commends the

contacts and negotiations taking place on an equal footing with the good offices of the U. N. Secretary-General, between the representatives of the two communities. It also states that all refugees should return to their homes in safety and expresses the hope that, if necessary, further efforts, including negotiations, can take place within the framework of the United Nations for the purpose of implementing the provisions of the resolution, thus ensuring to the Republic of Cyprus its fundamental right to independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Resolution was adopted by the General Assembly on 1 November, 1974 by 117 votes in favour, none against and no abstentions. The members of the Security Council were among those who voted in favour.

B.A.L.C.O. Officers Gheraoed

1567. **SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some officers of B.A.L.C.O. were gheraoed in Bombay recently by an infuriated mob for the failure of the B.A.L.C.O. to complete the Aluminium Project at Ratnagiri in time; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) and (b). No, Sir. Some members of the Konkan Parishad Action Committee met the Chief Civil Engineer of the Ratnagiri Aluminium Project in his Office at Bombay on 23rd October, 1974 and protested against delay in the commencement of construction work on Ratnagiri Aluminium Project. The same members subsequently met the Officer on Special Duty of the Project in the room of Secretary, Department of Industry and Labour, Maharashtra Government, when the former was in