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Title: Issue regarding threat of attack on Syria by Western Powers.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (DARJEELING): Madam Speaker, I have been endeavouring for the past several days to draw the attention of the House to, what I think is, an extremely important issue. That is the increasingly destructive conflict that has afflicted Syria. I think it is necessary for us to recognize that though civil wars, by their very nature, are extremely brutal and uncivil which Syria is currently going through, Syria is also being torn apart simultaneously by a fanatical, religious and sectarian conflict.

Madam, it is a matter of some regret to me that all these days that the threat of attack on Syria by Western Powers has been there, the Government and the House have not been able to mention this at all. I had occasion to mention this to the very affable, but not so able, Minister of External Affairs that this is a very dangerous situation that has arisen. I also drew his attention to, what I found was, a very objectionable statement by the Prime Minister of Great Britain, while speaking in the House, where he has spoken of having consulted with the Indian Prime Minister about wanting to attack Syria.

I did bring it to the notice of the Minister concerned and because of that, I am very glad, a Statement was issued, but I take objection even to that Statement because the Statement correcting the situation came across in a very strange language. Somebody from the High Commission announced that it was an 'innocent mistake' on the part of the Prime Minister of little Britain. This is a new language, Madam, in the world of diplomacy about mistakes becoming 'innocent mistakes.'

We, now, witness the US President having gone to the Congress to seek permission, without UN sanctions, to attack Syria. I do submit, Madam, that the Western world are not the policemen, or the keepers of global peace. This is unacceptable, and this must be unacceptable to India that the world in general takes a stand and most unfortunately the Indian Government reacts only belatedly to what I think is a globally very destructive situation.

I submit, Madam, that Syria is our neighbour. It is also the fulcrum of the Arab World. It is a civilisation that has nurtured Christianity and Islam. In fact, those of us who have studied this matter know that the Epiphany of St. Paul was when he was riding into Damascus, fell off his horse; a voice came, 'why are you going to kill the Christians' and he converted to Christianity on that account and became, in process, a saint. Surely, those who have studied history and military history know that Allenby, at the end of the Mesopotamian Campaign, rode into Damascus on a charger because he wanted to see it as an extension of the great campaigns of Christendom against Islam.

Either way it is unacceptable. The West has no authority to take action against any country whatsoever and having already caused so much damage to our neighbourhood because, I submit, Madam, that we have to consider very seriously that US military intervention in Asia starting from Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, half of western Pakistan, all this is now a desert from Peshawar to Morocco and it is entirely on account of Western intervention.

I do believe that the Government of India has to speak with much sounder and stronger voice against this kind of global policing or hegemony that we are witnessing. That is my appeal, Madam.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Shri Virender Kashyap,

Shri Virendra Kumar,

Shri Ashok Argal,

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab,

Shri Ramen Deka,

Shri K. D. Deshmukh,

Shri Shivarama Gouda,

Shri Shivkumar Udasi,

Shri Ramesh V. Katti,

Shri A. Sampath,

Shri M.B. Rajesh,

Shri P.K. Biju,

Dr. Kirit P. Solanki,

Shrimati Darshana Jardosh,

Shri Mahendrasinh Chauhan,

Shri Naranbhai Kachhadia,

Sk. Saidul Haque,

Shri Arjun Meghwal,

Shrimati Jayshreeben Patel,

Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey,

Shri Ramsingbhai Rathwa,

Dr. Ram Shankar, and

Shri Hasraj Ahir associate themselves with the matter raised by Shri Jaswant Singh.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Madam, I have also given a notice on this...(Interruptions)

अध्यक्ष महोदया : श्री सानुमा खुंगुर बैसीमुथियारी जी, बोलिए।

â€¦(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदया : बैसीमुथियारी जी को बोलने दीजिए।

â€¦(व्यवधान)