

put down violent forces trying to sabotage democracy'...

AN. HON. MEMBER: Mr. Stephen was right.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: If Mr Stephen was right! That is why I had to characterise it as 'the harbingers of things to come'.

I know that the time at my disposal is brief, and I shall confine myself only to some of the salient features of the Bill.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons of this Bill give us, indeed, a grim picture of the situation in the country after the so-called massive mandate. According to these 'Objects and Reasons', social tensions and communal disharmony are on the increase, industrial unrest is increasing, the 'extremist activities', which is a euphemism used by the ruling cliques everywhere for any kind of activity that challenges the present order or Government, are on the increase. I do not know whether it is a long list of confessional record of a Government that claims that it has not only a mandate but also a programme to fulfil! But that precisely is the point that it has no vision or programme to fulfil. To meet the so-called anti-social and anti-national elements, including secessionists, communal and pro-caste elements—a new terminology of the Home Minister—and all those who challenge the lawful authority, he has brought forward this Bill, according to his introductory remarks.

Now, I would like to know from him, if there was an immediacy for bringing forward this Draconian legislation first as an Ordinance, how many black-marketeers he had arrested in the first week of October and November, how many hoarders he had arrested in the second week of October and November; the House should be enlightened about this as to how many economic offenders were picked up under this law and arrested during October and November. I do not know whether he is in the habit of going through some of his own

Ministry's findings. The Home Ministry, I know, had done a brilliant study on the sources of rural tension, a few years back, and had come to the sad conclusion that it was not want of laws or authority that was creating tensions, nor could the repressive laws to a solution. They have clearly said that the question of relations in land, the agrarian relations, the inadequacy of land reforms, is the basic problem. Now, that is precisely...

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Prime Minister's statement come now...

AN HON. MEMBER: Not in the middle of the speech.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Not now.

MR. SPEAKER: I don't mind. It was because of your urgency that I was calling upon her.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): At 3.15, I have an appointment with a Foreign Minister. Either we have the Statement now or we can have it later...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Let us have it now.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: I am yielding to the Leader of the House

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I was summoned. There is no question of yielding to me.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the Prime Minister.

15.05 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. VISIT OF MR. L. I. BREZHNEV

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): The Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of USSR, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Soviet Union His Excellency Mr Leonid Illyich Brezhnev visited India from December 8-11. This was a visit to which both India and the USSR attached great importance and one which was in response to an invitation which we had extended to him in Belgrade last May. The visit was significant also because of internatio-

[Shrimati Indira Gandhi]

nal and regional situations. I had several opportunities of having detailed talks with the Soviet leader on various matters of mutual interest. At the end of the visit we signed a Joint Declaration. A copy of that declaration has already been placed on the Table of the House.

We in India value our friendship with the Soviet Union which goes back to even before our Independence. I participated in the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the October Revolution in Moscow. Years earlier my father had gone to the Soviet Union as a representative of the Indian National Congress at the 10th anniversary of the Revolution. The friendship which has since developed is a multi-faceted one which has benefited the peoples of the two countries and has contributed to world peace and stability. The socio-economic systems of our two countries are different, but we do share a common and abiding commitment to the strengthening of world peace.

It was a good augury that the Soviet President should visit India in a year which marks the silver jubilee of Indo-Soviet economic cooperation. President Brezhnev is an old friend of India and has been here in 1961 and 1973. In many ways he has been the architect of the edifice of Indo-Soviet Friendship. President Brezhnev was accompanied by a distinguished delegation amongst whom were Foreign Minister Gromyko and First Deputy Prime Minister Arkhipov, who are also our friends of long standing

We discussed a large number of questions especially those of direct concern to our countries. We both agreed on the need for a climate of peace and co-operation in our neighbourhood and for making determined efforts towards this end by all concerned. For, indeed, Indo-Soviet relations are not against any third country. It is a friendship that we both value greatly and in our pursuit of good neighbourly relations, we

ensure that Indo-Soviet relations are not adversely affected. More than words, for deeds bear out the truth of this assertion.

On the bilateral side, our discussions were focussed on the further strengthening of the co-operation between our two countries. An agreement on Economic and Technical Co-operation which I signed with President Brezhnev provides a framework for this. The Soviet Union has agreed to co-operate with India in three very important sectors—powers, coal mining and oil exploration. This is over and above the traditional co-operation in ferrous metallurgy, more specifically the expansion of Bhilai and Bokaro and the erection of a new integrated steel plant at Vishakhapatnam. The two sides have identified some specific projects which were left out of the 6th Plan because of lack of resources. Thanks to an offer of Soviet credit of Roubles 520 million—slightly under Rs. 520 crores—these will now be taken up during the next 4 to 6 years. They will contribute significantly to the further strengthening of India's industrial sinews. Three more Agreements were signed during the visit:—

(1) Trade Agreement.

(2) Protocol on Co-operation in the field of cinematography.

(3) Programme of Cultural, Scientific and Educational Exchanges for the years 1981-82.

Honourable members will be glad to hear that in response to our request the Soviet Union has agreed to increase its supplies of crude oil to India from the current level of 1.5 million tonnes to 2.5 million tonnes annually and of oil products from 1.9 million tonnes to 2.25 million tonnes annually for the next five years. This will be against additional exports from India and will substantially boost our two-way trade. We appreciate this friendly gesture.

Our discussions on international relations covered the world situation in general and affairs in our region in

some detail. On the Indian Ocean and on the continuing conflict between Iran and Iraq, there was a close proximity of views.

On Afghanistan, the views of the Soviet Union, with which the Hon'ble Members are already familiar, were reiterated by President Brezhnev. On our part, we made our perceptions clear and conveyed our serious concern. We expressed our opposition to all forms of outside interference in the internal affairs of other countries whether through the induction of regular troops or through infiltration and our view that all such interference should stop in order to make possible a peaceful political solution.

Both sides agreed that there is no alternative to a peaceful political solution to the problems in South West Asia as well as to other situations wherever they may arise. The Soviet leader expressed the hope that India would continue to play her constructive role in defusing the situation and in helping to find peaceful political solutions.

Continuing tensions and growing conflicts in our region have given outside forces an opportunity to exploit these tensions to their advantage. Recent years have seen a revival of efforts by certain non-littoral great powers to increase or consolidate their military presences in the Indian Ocean. There is much activity in building existing bases and in acquiring new bases and facilities. We have ourselves been demanding that the entire Indian Ocean should be freed of great power presences so that it can become a zone of peace. The people of Asia and Africa can ill-afford embroilment in this international power game which seems to be the beginning of a new cold war. We have shared our concern frankly with our Soviet friends.

We have not looked upon the situation in South-West Asia in isolation, either as a situation affecting this or that country or only a group of coun-

tries. These tensions are related to regional and global situations. The great powers have special responsibility in bringing about general and positive improvement in relations on a global scale and in this context the proposals made by President Brezhnev in his address to the Hon'ble Members appear constructive and worthy of careful consideration.

The Soviet leaders made no secret of their concern with the new escalating tensions in Europe and the stalemate in Central European disarmament negotiations. Hon'ble Members will recall that the two World Wars the most devastating conflicts mankind has ever known began on the continent of Europe. It is, therefore, imperative that peace prevails in Europe. The process of detente in Europe contributed to the acceptance of post-war realities and the promotion of mutual confidence and cooperation. We hope that this process will recover from its recent setbacks and will be strengthened and extended to other regions of the globe.

The visit of the Soviet President has afforded us a valuable opportunity of reaffirming the strength and vitality of Indo-Soviet relations. These relations are based on trust and mutuality of interest and have therefore stood the test of time. Even though we may occasionally have different perceptions on some specific event, our friendship will prosper and we can continue to cooperate between ourselves and with other like-minded countries in our dedication to the maintenance and strengthening of world peace.

15.14 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE. DISAPPROVAL OF NATIONAL SECURITY ORDINANCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY BILL—contd.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Unnikrishnan, you may continue now.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Sir, I was trying to say that the Home Minister had enlisted a long list of confessional records and the