

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Two calling attentions can be taken up in one day.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): Not two calling attention on one day.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHARAO (Ramtek): Sir, this spirit of accomodation is to be reciprocated. In a spirit of cooperation, we will also have to be accommodated whenever we ask for.

MR. SPEAKER: It goes without saying that we will accomodate each other.

Item 4 on the Agenda is postponed.

12.51 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Bilateral Talks with the Foreign Minister of Pakistan at New York

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): Honourable members are aware that I visited New York from the 22nd to the 26th April, 1990 to participate in the Special Session of the UN General Assembly devoted to International Economic cooperation and in the Non-aligned Foreign Ministers' meeting connected with this Special Session. I had extensive discussions with my counterparts from a large number of countries during my stay in New York.

The background to the meeting with Pakistan Foreign Minister was the tensions and aberrations created in Indo-Pak relations due to Pakistan's involvement generat-

ing extremism and violence in Jammu and Kashmir. Despite Pakistan's obdurate attitude on this issue, the Government of India had kept lines of communication open with authorities in Pakistan to avoid confrontation and to resuscitate the process of normalisation and stability in Indo-Pak relations.

In conformity with India's commitment to conduct relations with Pakistan in the spirit of bilateralism inherent in the Simla Agreement, I took advantage of my visit to New York to have a detailed exchange of views with the Foreign Minister of Pakistan Sahabzada Yakub Khan on the 25th April, 1990.

During the course of this meeting I reiterated that Pakistan's continued intervention in Jammu and Kashmir and its support and encouragement to terrorism there was not conducive to maintenance of peace in our region and that such an approach would be detrimental to Indo-Pak relations. I stressed that adventurist brinkmanship on the part of Pakistan in relation to Jammu and Kashmir might generate unpredictable events which might become uncontrollable.

I told him that since our last meeting, in January of this year, instead of listening to my advice for restraint, Pakistan had stepped up interventionist actions in the Punjab and Kashmir through training and supply of arms to subversives and incitement to violence. Belligerent and inflammatory hetic exhorting people to resort to arms was being indulged at very responsible political levels. Calls for a 'Thousand Years War' and for 'Jehad' were being issued from the same quarters. Special Kashmir Funds for supporting insurgency had been created. Government-sponsored media campaign had increased manifold. Advertisements were appearing in the press asking for recruits for 'Jehad' Fatehas were being read in Mosques and in the Parliament for the terrorists. A Pakistani citizen sitting in USA was owning up responsibilities for kidnappings and killings, and also openly asking his so-called followers to assassinate the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition of India.

Reports had appeared in the Pakistani press stating that the Pakistan government had sought the assistance of the United States Government for facilitating the mission of this Pakistani citizen in the United States. Efforts were being made to send Pakistani citizens across the line of actual control. There had already been three instances of Pakistani citizens crossing the Line of Actual control.

I impressed upon the Pakistan Foreign Minister that if Pakistan indeed sought peace and friendship, it must take tangible and credible measures to withdraw support to terrorism and desist from intervention in our internal affairs. Concrete evidence of this happening alone would provide the point of departure for building up friendly relations with Pakistan.

The Pakistan Foreign Minister denied that Pakistan was encouraging subversion and terrorism in India and reiterated Pakistan's well-known position regarding Kashmir and so called "self-determination".

I told Sahabzada Yakub Khan that Pakistan could not gloss over the facts and that it was still not too late for Pakistan to withdraw from the brinkmanship.

During the course of the discussion, the Pakistan Foreign Minister made the patently propagandist suggestion that we invite the United Nations or an outside agency to confirm the factual situation on the ground and to provide a "neutral surveillance mechanism". I have rejected this suggestion and reminded him that both countries had consciously agreed on the irrelevance and redundancy of the third party involvement in bilateral relations in the Simla Agreement, long ago. I also pointed out that his suggestion was neither helpful nor feasible. He should know that no international agency could effectively monitor clandestine assistance to terrorists. There was no alternative to Pakistan taking appropriate and credible measures in order to create confidence and demonstrate its seriousness about improving relations with India.

At the end of the talks similarly-worded press statements were made:

The two Foreign Ministers had a frank, businesslike and useful exchange of views. Both sides agreed that tension should be reduced and confrontations avoided. For this purpose, it was agreed that:

- (a) the Director General of Military Operations of India and Pakistan should remain in touch with each other;
- (b) Both sides should exercise restraint; and
- (c) channels of communications should be kept open at all levels"

My bilateral talks with the Pakistan Foreign Minister were frank and businesslike. They were useful in that they offered me the opportunity to impress upon the Pakistan Foreign Minister the dangers inherent in their policy of supporting terrorism and subversion in India and the need on their part to take urgent remedial action. We are watching the situation. We have kept communication channels open and if Pakistan gives concrete evidence on the ground, of applying restraint. This will pave the way for normalisation and improvement of our bilateral relations.

Before concluding, I would like to reiterate that India is wedded to peace, however GOI would like it to be clearly understood that it would not tolerate infringements of its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: (Ramtek): Sir, we would like to have a discussion on this. No discussion is possible on it today since it is a suo moto statement. The statement seems to conceal more than it reveals.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: We all take it up in the Business Advisory Committee.