

objection, but not for the sake of raising it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat):
Let us take up the discussion.

12.28 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE: SITUATION IN NICARAGUA

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up the discussion on the situation in Nicaragua.....

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Sir, this discussion should be over by 2 o'clock, including the Minister's reply. We have to start the General Discussion on the Budget (General) at 2.00 p.m.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I request the hon. Members to be very brief and try to cooperate.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour): There are not many Members to speak. There should be no difficulty.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Ajay Mushran. Please try to be brief. The discussion should be over by 2 o'clock.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for allowing me to raise this discussion on the situation obtaining in Nicaragua. It is a small country, smaller than Pondicherry so far as area is concerned. But we are convinced, and we as Indians maintain, that irrespective of the size of the country, the honour and sovereignty of a country is as sacred as that of a large country like the USA or any other large country. In that context and in the context of what we have been recently hearing and reading about the American intervention in weakening Nicaragua economically and trying to threaten the political sovereignty of the country, it is imperative that India, as leader of the third world, joins in highlighting at the international level the problems and the tragedy of the neonane of Nicaragua.

It will not be out of context, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to dwell for a couple of minutes on the history of the country, which is a very small country, located in the heart of the Central America. It has got its coasts on both the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans. The country has lakes and volcanoes and is a part of the Contadora group of American countries.

The area is, as I submitted, very small. It is about 128 sq. kms. The population is approximately three million, 96% of which live in the plains of the Pacific side and 4% on the Atlantic coast who speak English. Otherwise the language spoken by the majority is Spanish. It was in the 16th century that this country came under the sovereignty of Spain. It became a colony which remained for a good 200 years. It was in 1821 that for the first time Nicaragua became independent, but unfortunately fell under the domination of the USA. However, the first military intervention by USA was in 1855 which was followed by an adventurer William Walker who invaded and declared himself as the President of Nicaragua, introduced slavery, imposed English as the national language of the country, but later on he was destroyed by the Central American United Force.

It was in 1912 that for the first time US marines made their appearance in the internal matters of this small country. However, although they forced a liberal nationalite president to resign, the marines left after about fourteen years. And then came the person who really made Nicaragua independent. That was General Sandino who resisted American interference and after six years of fighting he cleared the country from the Americans. But unfortunately, America found a stooge in Somoza who created circumstances for the assassination of Gen. Sandino.

Why I am going into all these chronological history is that right from the beginning of the 20th century, America has been trying to impose a dictatorship of its choice on the people of Nicaragua and Gen. Sandino to begin with and his followers after his assassination have been persistently opposing these agents of the American Government. It was only the struggle between 1934 and 1979 which was against the dictatorship. It was under the

[Shri Ajay Mushran]

inheritors of Gen. Sandino, under the leadership of Carlos Fonseca that the people of Nicaragua won the real victory on 19th July 1979. Since then the Government of this country is involved in the national reconstruction. A Government has been formed which is confronted with the difficult task of reconstructing the country's administrative and political systems.

The American stooge Somoza left no army, police, treasury, judges, legislature, local government—nothing was existing in the country. (*Interruption*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Was it vegetable 'Samosa' or non-vegetable 'Samosa' ?

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : The English pronunciation is 'Somoza'; but they pronounce it as 'Samosa'.

The elections were held for the first time in November 1984—to be precise on 4th November when the present President came into power. The new Vice President was also elected and a National Assembly with 96 members was elected. These members belong to seven political parties.

However, the USA is not recognising the Sandinista National Liberation Front Government. They have been recognising a puppet called Calero.

He is there even today. It is Calero whom the President Reagan talks and recognises. Even two-three days earlier the American President faced the American Congress with Calero. The President received him and gave him all the honour and had a discussion with him. These are the various types of interference which the American Government has been imposing on this small country of Central America for the last so many years.

The National Government, of course, is re-constructing the political and economic set-up of the country. They are drafting the Constitution. They are giving amnesty to all Nicaraguans who were even anti-revolutionary but who have laid down their arms. They are bringing some sort of system.

On the international scene all the Contadora group of countries assembled in 1983 to negotiate about a multi-lateral agreement in the form of an Act under which all these countries will help and assist each other. So far as the political sovereignty of each other is concerned they will support each other. Even after thirty-six months of negotiations they have come to only certain amount of satisfactory agreement but there are certain things on which negotiations are still proceeding. The negotiations are going on since January, 1983. Last negotiations were held on 11th and 12th January, 1986. Now, a very interesting information has come to our light from the newspapers. The American Government is very worried that the Nicaraguan Government is seriously going to affect the security and sovereignty of the countries surrounding it like Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Columbia and Panama. Now, this reminds me of an elephant saying that he is scared of a rat or a fly. This type of arguments on an international scene make the American Government a laughing stock. It is on record that the Nicaraguan President has offered to the American President that let us both face the lie detector so far as the stand on Nicaraguan problem is concerned. The American President is yet to react to this.

Sir, so far as the economic conditions of the Nicaraguan people are concerned, I wish to submit some facts and figures which will clearly indicate as to in what stage the country was left by the agents of the Americans who were thrown away by General Sandico who is the real founder of Independence of this country. The export target of Nicaragua for this year is \$ 350 million. They basically export coffee, cotton, bananas, sugar and tobacco. So far as their import is concerned they are going to import items worth \$ 920 million. Except for the five items mentioned by me earlier they import everything, viz., pen, pencil, exercise books, etc. Everything except the five items mentioned by me has to be imported by this country. The difference in the deficit of the country which needs externally is to the tune of 570 million dollars. Over and above this amount, the country will have to make up from international sources and debts an amount of 1700 million dollars for the

early payment of the foreign debts. The above import is for the purpose of survival only and not for the development. Now, against the mercenary forces of the US Government, the cost of war is to the tune of 2000 million dollars. Yesterday, the Foreign Affairs Minister of Costa Rica has suggested to the American Government that they should sit down with the Nicaragua Government representatives and bilateral discussions should take place so that the problem can be solved and the economic throttling of the country which America is imposing today can be lifted. It is in the economic aspect for which I am very sure the Government of India will rise to the occasion as the leader of the Third World to make the voice of this small country heard because the sovereignty of a big country and the sovereignty of a small country are equal so far as the integrity of the country is concerned.

In the end, I only want to quote that there are various countries in the world which have come out openly and, of course, we lead in that. I am very glad to read the newspaper reports today. The statement which was given by the hon. Foreign Minister yesterday in the Rajya Sabha is the correct attitude of this Government which indicates the soundness and conviction of our foreign policy and I am very sure that the whole House will rise as one in expecting the Government of India make its voice heard as the leader of the Third World in support of Nicaragua, not only politically but more for the economic resurrection of this small country.

SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM (Tenali): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I condemn the activities of the USA in Nicaragua. Sir, I am afraid that our Government has been adopting a very soft policy in our external affairs unbecoming of size and dignity of our country. Taking advantage of our softness, many countries even small countries like Nicaragua, Pakistan and other countries have been indulging in very unfriendly activities against India and our attitude must be, as I have already been submitting, a very strong attitude in our external affairs, not a soft attitude like this and when things come to light we must be able to declare such countries as our unfriendly countries. We should not be

soft like this. Sir, we must be brave and we must have the guts to declare...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : When was Nicaragua unfriendly to us ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Before independence.

SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM : As far as other countries are concerned, our attitude must be very strong, and I am afraid that our attitude has been very soft with the USA, the Canadian Government and even with Pakistan which is uncalled for.

We find that while on the one hand the United States and United Kingdom offer their cooperation to us and declare that they are friendly to India, on the other hand, their continued actions against us have become very very dangerous for us.

During the Bluestar operation, one Sikh terrorist Jagjit Singh Chauhan, who escaped to U.K. was welcome in that country. It is a strange action on the part of a friendly country. In U.K., he was not only provided with rent-free Government quarters, he was also provided with financial assistance by that country. Is it an act of a friendly country ? The U.K. Government has been declaring from the rooftops that it is a friendly country, but can we take it as an act of a friendly country ?

It was also reported in the press that in U.K., an international organization of the Sikh terrorists had been collecting funds in U.K. and sending the money to Sikh terrorists in India. U.K. has also been allowing the Sikh terrorists to indulge in narcotics drug business there and with that money, they have been purchasing arms and ammunition and sending to the Sikh terrorists here.

As regard Pakistan, I need not say much ; Pakistan has been openly taking unfriendly attitude towards India. But we are so soft in our attitude that we are not able to declare it openly that Pakistan is unfriendly to us.

The United States of America has also been declaring that it is friendly to us, but it is not displayed by its actions. The United States has been very friendly to the

[Shri N. Venkata Ratnam]

Sikh terrorists, encouraging them ; it has not only been helping them by itself, but doing so through Pakistan also. I think, Canada has been better in that respect. After we took objections, it is reported that Canada has been taking steps to discourage Sikh terrorists in Canada.

I strongly urge upon the Government to take firm steps not to be soft against such countries who are taking an unfriendly attitude towards India. I urge upon the Government to be more masculine in its attitude in external affairs, which is not found many times. I request the Government to be brave enough, to be masculine and manly enough to come out with its true policy. It is not sufficient to have one policy inside and another policy outside. Government may say that due to practical reasons, they have to do like that. But that is not so, we know the facts. Our country must be able to face the true facts boldly. I once again urge upon the Government to be masculine at least hereafter.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, the U.S. Administration is taking steps which are going dangerously close to direct armed intervention in Nicaragua. It has been financing the 'Contras' based in Honduras and Costa Rica to launch armed attack across the border on the civilian population of Nicaragua. Between the years 1979 and 1984, the USA has provided \$ 70 million to aid these mercenary groups. In 1985, the Reagan Administration got the US Congress to sanction \$ 27 million as humanitarian aid (as it is called by them) to these mercenary gangs.

Now the Reagan Administration is trying to see that the US Congress approves \$ 100 million to aid the Contras. For what purpose? This money will go to kill the civilians and disrupt the life and economy of a very very small country like Nicaragua.

As we all know, Nicaragua is a non-aligned country. Its only crime is that it has overthrown the dictator, Somoza who was propped up the Americans.

Latin American nations and governments have expressed their serious concern against the growing intervention in Nicaragua. The Contadora group of countries

such as Mexico, Venezuela, Columbia and Panama have since 1983, been trying to arrive at a peaceful settlement of outstanding problems. But these constructive proposals have so far been rejected by President Reagan, though the Government of Nicaragua have accepted the proposal for the settlement of the dispute.

Nicaragua today is not only being attacked militarily. This small country is now being attacked economically by the U. S. imperialist forces. The USA imposed economic blockade in May 1985. A country of three million population struggling to eliminate poverty is being attacked economically and militarily by the USA. So far 4,000 people have been killed and 8,000 have been injured or kidnapped by the US-financed mercenary group 'Contras'. These criminal activities must be condemned by this House.

Sir, in the Indian sub-continent, the USA conspires to surround India with a ring of reactionary governments subservient to the US imperialists. They are supplying sophisticated arms to Pakistan for the purpose of an aggression against India. The US imperialists try to rouse chauvinistic feelings in India taking advantage of the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. They openly support the internal secessionist forces in order to divide and dismember our country. The US imperialists are trying to have a ring around India with hostile bases in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangla Desh and Indian Ocean. They have their permanent base in Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. We all know what the US did in Korea, what they did in Vietnam, what they are doing in Afghanistan and what they are doing in Israel to throttle the Palestine Liberation Movement. The same game is being played by the US imperialists in Nicaragua also.

The Government of India, being the chairman of the Non-aligned Nations Movement must come out in firm support of the Government of Nicaragua. It must firmly tell the US Government that hostile acts against the Republic of Nicaragua must be ended forthwith and it must really rally all non-aligned countries and world opinion in favour of Nicaragua's heroic battle for peace, justice for safeguarding its territorial integrity.

I would like to conclude by quoting

from a letter from the President of Nicaragua, Mr. Savadera :

“The people of Nicaragua will continue to pay with their blood for their right to peace and justice in the conviction that reason and wisdom must prevail over policies of force and peace will become a reality in Central America.”

Sir, I appeal to hon. Minister through you that we should move a Resolution from this House in support of the struggle that is being waged in Nicaragua against the imperialists. The people of Nicaragua need our moral support, economic support and all types of support. So we must come forward and express our solidarity in support of their struggle. With these words I conclude.

[Translation]

DR. G. S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say something in this regard. All the relevant points on the subject have been touched by my friend. I would like to say only this much that America always backs the wrong horse. In Nicaragua, a legitimate government is being harassed. Economic aggression is worse than political aggression, because it affects slowly. America is helping the guerillas and imposing economic blockade as well. The sugar which was being exported from Nicaragua to various countries has now been stopped resulting in collapse of the export business.

So much so that America is exerting pressure on the World Bank not to help Nicaragua. Nicaragua's Government is a democratic Government. Yesterday, during the discussion in Rajya Sabha I was happy to note that the Government of India had expressed her support to the people and the Government of Nicaragua. Sir, time has now come when we must support the Government of a democratic country. In the past also we had supported China during her struggle against the imperialist Government of Japan. What I want to say is that the stand of the Government of India is admirable. We should join hands with the Government to support the people of Nicaragua.

As we have already said, we must strive to mobilise world opinion. If there had been no public opinion, Reagan's Government would have backed the Marcos Government and the duly elected Aquino Government would not have come to power. President Reagan had no other option but to extend support to the Aquino Government. The voice raised here will be heard all over the world.

We should differentiate between the people and the Government of America. There is a large section of the American people even now which does not like the functioning of the American Government. If we could mobilise public opinion in the matter, it would be a great moral support in the international sphere. In the end I once again say that we have full sympathy with the people and the Government of Nicaragua.

13.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : Sir, I am gratified that some time, however brief it may be, has been allotted for this very important discussion. I would have been happy if the Government had agreed to a unanimous Motion being adopted by this House. But unfortunately, I have been told that that is not possible. So, we have simply to express our sentiments now. There is nothing controversial in this subject. This is a Parliament which is still the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement. And therefore, Nicaragua Sir, has every right—as a claim I should say, on our active support and solidarity in the struggle which they are conducting against these growing threats—aggressive threats against their independence and sovereignty. This kind of subversive moves against many countries are carried on generally in a clandestine fashion. We have also been the victims of it here. And even now, you see, we cannot do anything about the fact that in spite of Mr. Bhagat's saying the other day that we have got hard evidence that terrorists are being trained across the border in Pakistan. It appears that, we are helpless, we cannot do anything about it. It is all clandestine. Pakistani authorities do not admit it. There are bases in Diego Garcia in the Indian

[Sari Indrajit Gupta]

Ocean which obviously are a threat to us. We have had our Prime Minister assassinated in this country. So, it is not difficult for us to understand that a small country like Nicaragua which is positioned so near the proximity of the United States of America and has a population of only three million people is being threatened for the simple reason that the Dictator who was there is a stooge American. This gentleman Samoza has been overthrown by the people there just like we found Marcos being overthrown in the Philippines and Duclian being overthrown in Haiti. These U.S. imperialist dictators who are totally isolated from their people will be overthrown everywhere and in this case Sir, now this new Government which is not a communist Government—the Government of Daniel Ortega—who is only 38 years old, the President of the country. He is not a Communist; and that country is being threatened, because they are members of the non-aligned movement. They are against imperialism. They are for defending their freedom and independence.

Something was said a little while ago, that Americans are saying that the Nicaraguans may ally, in fact, with other countries roundabout, and therefore it is necessary to act in the interests of American security. That is the pretext. But everybody knows that a number of leading, major countries of Latin American countries, the Centrodora Group which consists of Mexico, Panama, Columbia and Venezuela has been for a long time now actively trying to see that a peaceful, negotiated settlement is found, and these external threats to the independence and sovereignty of countries of that region are countered and stopped. These countries have been supported by Brazil, Argentina, Peru and Uruguay. Here, we have got eight major countries of that continent. None of them is a Communist country, or even a socialist country. They are standing firmly on the side of repelling external aggression and external threats to that region, to their continent.

Therefore, we know that the non-aligned movement is the target of imperialism. We have suffered for it, in our own country. We are also being encircled. We know that Mujib of Bangladesh, because of his crime

aligned movement and having friendly ties with India, was also put out of the way.

13.06 hrs.

[Shrimati Basavarajeswari in the Chair]

Now, another friend of India, Prime Minister Olof Palme of Sweden who was one of the six whom our Indian Government took the initiative to get together as the Group of Six which has been taking so many initiatives all over the world in the interests of peace, disarmament all that, has also been killed. Of course, it is not proved who killed him. But we have every reason to suspect some hidden hand. But in America, there is no question of any clandestine operation. The U.S. Congress is being openly asked to vote an amount of \$ 100 million to assist these counter-revolutionaries who have run away from Nicaragua who were the hirelings of Samoza before he was overthrown, and who are now based in the neighbouring countries of Costa Rica and Honduras and being heavily armed and heavily financed by the United States in order to strangulate this Nicaragua liberation movement.

Therefore, all I would say, Madam, is that we have recently established full diplomatic relations with Nicaragua. It is a happy development. And the Ambassador of Nicaragua in our country, the lady whose father was an Indian, a Bengali coming from my State, has appealed and publicly made a passionate appeal for help from India. What she wants is not only moral and political support. That, of course, we will give; but some material assistance too, in the shape of, e.g. medicines, blood plasma and so on. And they are not asking for arms from us. But they are asking for paper and pencil, because they want to combat illiteracy. Imagine the priority a country like that is giving to the struggle against illiteracy. Can't we supply them with paper and pencils even, offer them medicines and clothing and other things which they require in their struggle?

Of course, there is no question of the Government not extending its support to a member of the non-aligned movement

which, if it is not countered in time, will extend all over the world. It has already got global dimensions ; and our own country is also a victim of that. But I would like to know from the hon. Minister more concretely, when he replies, as to what we propose to do.

It is very good to make speeches here. I regret that yesterday's debate in the Rajya Sabha on the same subject has practically been blacked out in the Press. There is not a word about it in our great national Press. I do not know what kind of priorities our Press has got. I do not blame the journalists sitting in the gallery, but certainly the people who manage and own these newspapers. They are not interested in these matters at all. I hope that our House will get better treatment at the hands of the Press. Anyway, I would like to know from him more concretely—this is my last suggestion—whether Government would support the idea of some sort of a Parliamentarians' Committee for Aid to Nicaragua being set up. It need not be an official committee. It will be a non-official committee of parliamentarians belonging to all different parties.

We are not concerned here with party difference, and through that committee we can launch a movement of solidarity with the people of Nicaragua and collection of fund and material and other things can be carried on ; and if necessary, I should say, government should encourage and assist some sorts of solidarity mission, a goodwill solidarity mission, to be sent to Nicaragua on behalf of the Parliament of India to go there and express directly our support and solidarity as we did in the case of China when they were fighting against Japanese aggression in those days as we did in Spain where Pandit Nehru went himself. Therefore, there is no reason why even for this great continent of Latin America with whom in recent years we have built up some kind of meaningful relationship, this country which is being blockaded economically, militarily threatened and which is asking us for our help, we should concretely do something. I hope, the hon. Minister in his reply, will indicate that we are not going to end simply by a pious resolution

of support, but we will take some concrete steps also.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mormugao) : I join my colleagues here in expressing appreciation for having this debate on Nicaragua in this House. Nicaragua is a country far away from us. Also this debate was fixed at 6 o'clock today, but it is doubly appreciated that the debate has taken place and has taken place at this time shows our concern with the situation in Nicaragua.

There is a broad consensus on foreign policy issue in this House and however much we may differ now and then on domestic affairs, we have this consensus on foreign policy, a consensus which was not established yesterday, a consensus which came even before we attained independence; and the pillars of this consensus on foreign policy are anti-imperialism, anti-colonialism and non-alignment movement. It is in this context that a debate in this House is very relevant. I am not one of those who is consistently and for everything voicing against anti-American city. I have great admiration for many trades of the American society and the American civilization. They have made a great contribution to the world's civilization. I have admiration for the people of the United States. It is also true that when it comes to Latin America or Central America or South America, these countries are known as Banana Republics, because the food companies of the United States used to exploit them as though they were part of their State ; they were always treated as some sort of vessels of the United States of America ; and at all times, for the last more than a century, since they attained Independence, the United States administration saw to it that they protect what is now known, after Gen. Eisenhower's term, their military industrial complex, which ruled really the United States, though there may be a President named Reagan or another President named Carter. But what is permanent ? You see the President of the United States is changing. But what remained permanent is the General Electric Company, the Food Company ; and all these Companies constitute the industrial military complex of the United States. And the Pentagon which is part also of the military industrial complex sees that

[Shri Eduardo Faleiro]

American business interest is protected. That is the crucial word in the American foreign policy. In our foreign policy and the American foreign policy, there is only one word that is business and only business; and that is how they are dictators of all shades and types who have no support of the people, who exploited the people in collusion with military industrial complex, in joining military industrial complex of the United States who ruled these Central American and South American Republics known as Banana Republics because they were estates of the Food Company of the United States.

One of the worst was this gentleman, M. Samoza; he was not one Samoza; one was bad enough; it was a family of Samozas. One would exploit and die and then the son would succeed. Now that we are talking about papa doc, and before papa doc we had earlier papa docs in Haiti who were made notorious and famous. Some of these people were never better for a moment than the papa doc or the baby doc of Haiti. Now the people of Nicaragua got fed up and overthrew Samoza; and Samoza, the father, the ruler, got his due dressing by being killed not in Nicaragua but somewhere else; and these young people came to power.

Now, what is Nicaragua? Nicaragua is a country of 3.5 million people, out of which 55 per cent of the population is below 16 years. Now, the position is this: the most powerful country in the world, the United States, is now fighting the nation of Jews. And are we to remain quiet? Are we to remain silent?

Now, for the first time, in the history of Nicaragua elections were held, democratic elections were held, on the 4th November, 1984. And these elections were supervised by the United Nations Organization, by a Swedish organization, by an organization of countries which support the United States generally in their foreign policy, a non-governmental organization which supports the United States generally in their foreign policy and this was accepted by the United Nations that the elections were free and fair, and the present Government came into being. It has been stated here that that Government is not a

communist government. Actually, I think that this is one of the countries in the world which has the largest number of Christian Priests as Ministers and one generally does not expect Christian Priests to be communists. It is a contradiction. But the Foreign Minister is a Christian Priest, the Cultural Minister and the seniormost Minister there is a Christian Priest.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B.R. BHAGAT): They are Gandhians. They are doing this for rousing the conscience of the world.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: They follow Mahatma Gandhi's preachings.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member's time is up.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: I had been there twice, Madam. once before the elections were held and again after the elections. I have seen with my own eyes the things there. I need some more time.

I have seen the people rejoicing in the villages, in the bar lobbies, and in their quarters, on the victory of the Carezo Government when this Government of young people came into being and they knew that Government had got to be supported. What the United States and Mr. Reagan are doing? They are trying to destroy these people by their F-7's and all such types of bombers which can go so fast.

Since you have rung the bell, madam, let me make some concrete suggestions.

I have seen that the aims of our foreign policy are to advance our national interests, and to thereby reiterate our commitment to the principle by which we are bound, non-alignment, and non-interference, etc. But what have we done in support of the implementation of these principles?

Now, we have a minister who is a political person, a minister who has been a leader in the freedom struggle. Therefore, the whole principle of non-alignment and the policy, is a policy which has been going on for some years now and our con-

tribution—I am sorry to say—has been precious little and little more than making our usual rhetoric speeches in the United Nations. We have not done much. We have to do much more than what we have done.

Now, look at the position of that small country running into tremendous debts. What have we done to help? What have we done to help them in their plight? I understand that an economic mission is going to Nicaragua. But what is the reason for the delay? The people of Nicaragua—they talked to me—want a paper re-cycling machine. They want a paper re-cycling machine before our economic mission can go there. This paper recycling machine will cost less than the cost involved in the trip of one member of the economic mission. A team of seven members is going, I am told. The people there are not asking for money. They are asking for goods like textiles, and so on and so forth.

Now, if we cannot give the various things in time,—and this is something which I said it before also—what is it we are doing?

I would like to say this much and I have said it before in this House. Our diplomats are as good as the best in the world, even of the most developed country. But our diplomats are not trained. We have told them, we have followed this beautiful peculiar British system of bureaucracy. They are not trained. They are not supposed to be political people. But, we are supposed to represent the people of India. The people of India are anti-imperialism and anti-colonialism, having suffered under the colonial yoke. And, therefore, through the people of India we support in concrete terms the people of Nicaragua. This is not done by our diplomacy, because our diplomat under the British pattern is not for the people, our policy under the British pattern is not for the people. And, we are trained not to have any feelings. And, therefore, Madam Chairman, I would say, let us forget all this mumbo-jumbo of the economic mission and all this type of approach which go on for ever. Let us do something immediately. Now, are we afraid of the American people? No. As our late Prime Minister Indiraji has shown we should not be afraid of anybody, whether

it is the United States, or the Soviet Union we are not afraid of anybody. Pandit Nehru said it and Shri Rajiv Gandhi is also doing the same thing. They are not bothered whether it is the United States, Soviet Union, China or anybody else. We are firm on our principles. You should be bothered only if we go against our principles. I may say this much that there are many countries which are allies of the United States, and still helping the people of Nicaragua. The EEC as a group is helping the people of Nicaragua. When I was there, I met the senior officer of the EEC who was there to build houses under the plan of EEC for the people of Nicaragua. Now, EEC, on November 12, at a meeting in Luxemburg has decided and sanctioned an economic package of aid to Nicaragua. Italy and Spain, two days ago, have also agreed on a joint package of economic assistance. Apart from this, Italy individually. Spain, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Holland, Finland, France are countries which belong to the western alliance and support the United States generally in its foreign policy. They are giving concrete governmental economic aid to Nicaragua. Now, let us also do something concrete. I implore of our Minister, who is a political Minister, to help this country so that our image stand high.

Now, we are speaking about the embassy. Let us give them some building or some facilities so that they can function. It is a small country. Let us not go by this *baniya* mentality, with due respect to all *baniyas* who are present here. Let us come forward and give a small help. We are a poor country. We can contribute less. But whatever we have, we share with the people of Nicaragua as we have shared with the people of South Africa, the people of SWAPO and the other oppressed and underprivileged people of the world.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY (Buxar) : I would like to begin with a quotation, which, I suppose, will put the things in correct perspective. This will reveal what Mr. Reagan and the American administration under his leadership is trying to do not only in Nicaragua but all over the world and how his hegemonism, intervention and interference is a general syndrome of the aggressive and imperialist onslaught on the freedom and integrity of the Third

[Prof. K. K. Tewary]

World countries. I quote this about Mr. Reagan :

"He only works three to four hours a day. He does not do his homework. He does not read his briefing papers. It is sinful that this man is President of the United States."

These observations were made by Mr. Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., Speaker, House of Representatives. Through these observations he has tried to focus the philosophy of Reagan Administration which finds its naked expression and manifestation in Nicaragua. Nicaragua may be a small country, but it needs help and we must extend our help to it. But more than that, Nicaragua has to be presented as the symbol of resistance of imperialism because American intervention and intervention through covert operations under CIA leadership is taking place not only in Nicaragua but also other parts of the world as a whole including India. Nicaragua has suffered the onslaught of American imperialism. For the last eight years, it has been highlighted how the hated Somoza regime was overthrown not by the organised communist group but by the people of Nicaragua who had had enough of tyrannical, barbaric regime lasting over 30 years. The Americans used to treating the whole of Central America as their private fishing pond for promoting their interest in the name of American security. They have been imposing juntas headed by despicable regimes lead by military dictators.

Madam, when we talk of Nicaragua and the removal of Somoza, and what happened after that, we are reminded of this scenario, this phenomenon, in other countries as well. Mr. Indrajit Gupta was referring to baby doc and papa doc. More than that what is happening is the genocidal terror unleashed in South Africa. Who are the people behind this genocidal regime, the Pretoria regime, the racist regime, and the continued suppression of the people, the freedom loving people and their struggle, their heroic struggle in Namibia? Who are behind the fascist activities of the Israelies, the massacre, butchery of the people of Palestine? So, these are some of the symbols of American hegemonism and also the way Nicaragua has been

treated. We recall and we shudder when we recall the barbarities, systematic barbarities, perpetrated on the people of Nicaragua and how ports were mined, how economic blockade was planned, and it is very significant, to which reference ought to be made during this debate. Nicaraguan Government took this case of mining of the ports to the International Court of Justice. When the International Court of Justice came out with its scathing indictment of American intervention, then America quietly said, "We are not interested and henceforth we are not going in any bilateral dispute to the International Court of Justice. On this matter, Madam, when CIA started its operation, I would like to quote the way Mr. Reagan tried to ignore even American public opinion, even the State apparatus, Senator Goldwater, who is no friend of Third World countries. He is die-hard bide-bound conservative. He observed in a letter to Mr. William, Coseyn the Chairman of CIA. says, and I quote :

"All this past weekend I've been trying to figure out how I can most easily tell you my feelings about the discovery of the President having approved mining some of the harbours of Central America. It gets down to one little simple phrase....."

It is rather unparliamentary, but since I am quoting him, I must quote :

**

Further he says :

"Bill, this is no way to run a railroad and I find myself in a hell of a quandary..... The President has asked us to back his foreign policy. Bill, how can we back his foreign policy when we don't know what the hell he is doing? Lebanon, yes, we all knew that he sent troops over there. But mine the harbours in Nicaragua? This is an act violating international law. It is an act of war. For the life of me, I don't see how we are going to explain it."

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT : He was a Presidential candidate.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : Yes, he was a Presidential candidate, a very eminent American personality, but the American

**Not recorded.

Government does not respect international law. In violation of all international laws, international treaties and conventions, they are indulging in this kind of destabilisation, this kind of intervention all over the world. What is happening in Nicaragua is an undeclared war. So, as the leader of the Non-Aligned Group, what ever we do, we must do it immediately because an attempt is being made to throttle this small nation.

I must also draw the attention of the House to the growing menace of American imperialism, the way they are systematically trying to undermine the sovereignty of nations, whether they are big or small, the way they are trying to undermine the authority of international bodies. They have withdrawn from the International Court of Justice. Now they are introducing a concept in the U.N. They are saying that since they are funding the UN and their contribution is the largest, therefore, there should be weighted voting for them. They are saying that the importance of a member nation will depend upon the amount of its contribution and they have passed a Resolution in their Congress saying that from 1987 onwards they will not be funding the U.N. So, this is an attempt to undermine the authority of international bodies and to throttle democratic forces all over the world. Therefore it is important that we join hands with other countries in the world in putting muscles into the fighting arms of the people of Nicaragua because what Nicaraguans are doing is, they are fighting hard, they are in the vanguard of resistance against the vile attempt of American Imperialism to undermine the independence, sovereignty and integrity of this nation. Madam, Mr. Gupta made a reference to the murder of our leader, Mrs. Gandhi. This is happening. The leaders of such countries which are large, which are comparatively more stable, are being assassinated. Mrs. Gandhi is the leader of the non-aligned world and one of the tallest leaders in contemporary history of the world. She was assassinated. How significant it looks! This happened to the only leader Olaf Palme from the industrialised world who was the hope for the third world countries and developing countries. When we were in the U.N. she stood as a towering personality and challenged the Americans on the concept of

weighted voting, and said. 'All right, about your membership, you have to take the decision. But about funds, all the countries of the world, whether they are from the third world countries or from the industrialised world, will get together and contribute to sustain the U.N. Therefore, Madam, in conclusion I would say that the ugly designs of CIA are now visible all over the world. In the end I would make a request, I do not know why the Government of India is not making public the Hardgrave report about the expected killing of Indira Gandhi. Hardgrave made a study under instruction of the State Department. That report came out in 1983. The entire Indian scenario was depicted; and it said what will happen, how India will disintegrate after Indira Gandhi was assassinated or killed That report is available in America. That report was prepared by CIA. At least I do not have any doubt about the involvement of CIA. As foreign hands have been mentioned very often, the hand of the CIA is there in the assassination of Indira Gandhi. This report of Hardgrave must be made public in India. It should be made available to the Members of this House. In the end I would conclude by saying that all the help that we can extend, diplomatic and material, we should extend to strengthen democracy and peaceful forces in Nicaragua and we must resist, along with Nicaragua, the onslaught of imperialist forces in that part of the world. With these words I conclude.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa) : Madam Chairman, the time allotted to me is very short and therefore I will be very brief.

I want to draw the attention of this House—and through you, the attention of the Minister—to two vital points. One point has already been dealt with by Mr. Faleiro. That is about providing accommodation for the Nicaraguan Embassy in India. (*Interruption*). They have made a request but that has not been acceded to. I am not going to dwell at length on this point.

AN HON. MEMBER : From Housing Committee accommodation can be provided !

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : We always support them; and the whole

[Shri Saifuddin Choudhary]

country will support them. You give them accommodation and people will take it very happily; there is nothing wrong in that.

The second point to which I want to draw your attention, Mr. Foreign Minister, is whether the Government of Nicaragua has requested our Government to send a non-aligned team mainly consisting of delegates from India who will be moving with the Contadora Group. They think that will be very much helpful to them as they consider India as one of the great countries that can make an impact in that situation and that will help to repel the American conspiracy, the imperialist conspiracy that is there. I want to know whether that request has been made by them and if so, what is the reaction of our government to that request.

These two points I want to make and I don't want to make a speech. Our heart goes to them and we want to see that our Government takes all possible steps to stand by them and to express our solidarity with them.

With these words, I conclude.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur): Madam, the people of Nicaragua are under series of strains ever since they gained their democratic setup, and on 19th of July 1979 they were able to have their own, but the U.S.A. has been able to pressurise them to the mining of the ports through various other measures, the details of which have been given by our friends.

I had the occasion of attending an International Conference on Nicaragua in Lisbon in 1984 as a delegate of the AICC and I remember the volume of opinion that was in favour of Nicaraguan struggle. It was a sight to see one delegate after another coming forward to support the heroic struggle as we heard in rapt attention one of the speeches made by one of the important Ministers from that country what had been the cause of that struggle. The House may know that as many as 2,817 Nicaraguans had been killed in this heroic struggle, 3,020 had been injured, 1,825 had been kidnapped and 73,000 people had been displaced. These are the

human losses, and in economic terms \$ 306 million had been the loss in one year only. So, coming out of the Spanish struggle and domination Nicaraguans thought that they would be able to have their own say in this free world. But located as they are in the Central portion of this America, North America on the one side and South America on the other side, these 5 or 6 small nations have to strive for their struggle and it is very difficult for them to withstand their pressures because it is ironical to say that America is putting all sorts of pressures most of the machinery in Nicaragua is of American design, most of the things that they are building, machines etc., are manufactured in America and till the other day the U.S. Government is fleecing the economy of this small country and now they are putting all sorts of hurdles in their way.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE : American designs are very large.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Their designs are both ways. As is corroborated by Prof. Madhu Danavate, designs in the sense of mechanics and designs in the sense of diplomacy. That is all the trouble with U.S. Under the international opinion the Nicaraguans were able to have the reference to the International Court of Justice, they were able to hold elections and the results were in their favour. This Sandanista National Liberation Front, the Party that is carrying on the government at present, was returned with majority and it was also supervised by certain outside agencies— it was a fool-proof system, it was a good election, but it is very ironical that the U.S. should not respect the verdict of the electorate, they should not respect their reference to the World Court, they should not respect the opinion of the international intellectuals, they should not respect anything except their own wild desire to overthrow this country and make it the base for CIA.

Madam, India as the Chairman of the Non Aligned Movement should come forward with some positive steps. It is not only that we pass resolutions or make speeches supporting the heroic struggle in Nicaragua but something real we should do. I would be happy that the struggle of this small but brave country is recognised

by us and some sort of parliamentary group is sent there to boost their morale. Whatever small things they want—which are not weapons, which are not ammunition, which are not fighter planes—but if they want pencils and papers and things of that type in fighting illiteracy, well that should be our concern. As a developing country, we should be able to come forward and extend a helping hand to them. So, Madam, in this hour of struggle of the people of Nicaragua, they have established diplomatic relations with us. It is a happy coincidence that the Madam Ambassador from that country is one of us, in the sense that her father was an Indian. This is also another proof of the solidarity between India and Nicaragua and they have particularly chosen her to represent that country in India. We welcome her appointment and we welcome the sentiment. Let the whole House of the various Parties and Groups rise in one voice.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : No Member can refer to anyone in the gallery.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : I say, the whole section of the House. I do not refer to the section which Prof. Dandavate is always in mind. I only refer to all those Members in this House to join and raise our voice together and have a firm resolve to help this small but brave country. We join those of our friends who are helping them to get out of this trouble. No amount of pressure from the United States—the mining of the ports, the sending of mercenaries, the giving of ammunition to these so called fighters whom they are sending from United States to destabilise that country—will help against the strong public opinion that stands for a united, strong, stable and democratic Nicaragua, for which we all support.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar) : Madam Chairman, we have secured our own political independence after decades of great struggle. We are, therefore, fully alive to the value of political independence of a nation. It is really unfortunate that the United States of America which secured its own freedom more than 2 centuries back should now threaten the independence of so many countries around

the world, more particularly, all countries in South America. It is all the more unfortunate that the United States of America should still be obsessed with its own obsolete doctrine, known as Monroe Doctrine which tends to treat all countries in the South America as a sphere of its own influence.

In pursuance of that doctrine, I suppose, the Reagan Administration is now seeking sanction of hundred million dollars from the U.S. Congress to aid the contrast in Nicaragua. I do not know what happened to the democrats in the British and the United States for 30 years, when dictatorial regime was ruling the roost in Nicaragua. We know fully well that in addition to the 100 million dollars which he is now seeking, the Administration has already spent more than 70 million dollars between 1979 and 1984 to destabilise the progressive and democratic regime in Nicaragua. This is not the first instance. The memory of Bay of Pigs region is still fresh in our minds. We also know how a democratically elected leader was killed in Chile in cold blood and how the United States of America is blatantly interfering in El Salvador and other countries. It is but right that our Government should support the peace initiatives of the Contadora group. But mere diplomatic support, as Mr. Falcão rightly emphasised will not suffice. We must also extend economic assistance to this small country which has been fighting the mightiest nation on earth in a very brave and heroic fashion. I am sure, like the brave Vietnamese, Nicaragua will also surely teach a lesson to the United States.

It is unfortunate, Madam Chairman, in this year 1986 which has been designated as the Year of International Peace, we are spending more than 970 billions of dollars on armaments. A large part of this is spent by the United States. The United States has been trying to threaten the regime in Nicaragua through economic blockade. I do not know why President Reagan who hesitates so much to take recourse to economic blockade in the South Africa, should resort to economic blockade of Nicaragua so readily,

It is, in fact, necessary that India—the leader of the Non-Aligned Movements

[Shri S. Jaipal Reddy]

should take initiative to defend the freedom of one of the truly Non-Aligned countries, Nicaragua. We, the Janata Party will do everything in our power to support the Government in any move to defend and preserve and protect the freedom of Nicaraguan people, as a nation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Harish Rawat—two minutes. Afterwards, the Minister will reply. He will be the last speaker.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Madam Chairperson, I would like to congratulate my friend Shri Ajay Mushran for providing an opportunity to express our emotional solidarity with the people and the democratic Government of Nicaragua. Today, what is happening in Nicaragua cannot be justified in anyway. America is trying to snuff out democracy in Nicaragua in the same way as it interfered in the affairs of Grenada, Chile and many other countries. We should pray to God in this Parliament to provide strength to the people of Nicaragua to face American threat as was done by the brave people of Vietnam.

Madam, the hon. Minister of External Affairs has done some remarkable work and his statement on Srilanka—which might have been criticised in Srilanka and attempts might have been made to vilify him but the Indian people feel that his statement reflected their feelings. I am fully confident that he will express our emotional solidarity with the people of Nicaragua in the same way. I also request the Government to extend financial assistance to Nicaragua which may be expected by her from India.

Madam, the economy of Nicaragua was mainly based on the export of coffee, banana and other raw material to America, but now the embargo imposed by America is adversely affecting the economy of the country. I would, therefore, request the Government of India and the hon. Minister to extend economic assistance, medical assistance and assistance in the field of education or any other field, where it is needed, to Nicaragua. The people of India and this House will support the hon. Minister in this noble cause.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B.R. BHAGAT) : Madam Chairman, Nicaragua is engaged in a life and death struggle for independence and sovereignty and it is a matter of pride to witness this morning the total solidarity of the people of all sections of the House. This is in our glorious tradition that India has the most shining record not only for fighting for its own freedom but for always coming to the help of any nation, big or small, in any part of the globe and expressing solidarity and support in their struggle for independence. This is our attitude to Nicaragua as well. This is the example of a small country of 3 million, of a very lion-hearted will of the people, strong will, that they will sacrifice everything but not their freedom and independence.

I am happy that the House has expressed its solidarity. It will certainly boost the morale of the people of Nicaragua, the Great and the heroic people of Nicaragua who are engaged in glorious struggle for freedom.

The hon. Members have suggested rightly that we must not only express pious sentiments and even pass resolutions but do something concrete to help the people. It is a right approach. India as a country treats Nicaragua as a very close friend and a colleague in the non-aligned movement. It is a very valued colleague in the non-aligned movement. Through its struggle for its independence and sovereignty, Nicaragua is fighting for the basic principles of non-alignment movement and India has been trying to give all assistance possible. We have already provided medical assistance which is needed by Nicaraguan people, medical supplies of Rs. one lakh we have sent. We are sending.....

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : It is too meagre.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT : We are sending a techno-economic team.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Why are you not providing the Embassy with accommodation ?

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT : I am coming to that.

We are sending a techno-economic team this month so as to work out the areas of small-scale sector and other diversified areas in agriculture and other facilities so as to develop and diversify the economic cause. Apart from military intervention and subversion, Nicaragua is facing a very big challenge of economic pressures and blockade.

Nicaragua is a resource rich country with hard working people. Today it has an economic strength that it can build up an export of a billion dollars. It achieved exports of 300 million dollars. But, today it has come down to less than 100 million dollars and we have to help Nicaragua in building up its economy along with other friends in the non-alignment movement.

So far as the question of providing assistance in opening a Mission is concerned, we are examining and there are various delicate matters in this. But certainly I assure the hon. Member that this matter is very much in our consideration at the moment and we will try to do all that is possible to help their Embassy function in an effective manner here.

As the hon. Members have said, the situation today is centred not only in Nicaragua but, in and around Nicaragua, of total destabilisation, of confrontation, of military action and of military conflict. And it is a source of great concern to the entire international community particularly during the last five years and the hon Members will recollect that one of the first acts of the Prime Minister when he took over as the Chairman of the Non-aligned Movement was to issue a Statement expressing grave concern at the escalating tensions in Central America and the threat of an armed conflict in the region, specially, in and around Nicaragua.....

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Who is responsible for this escalation tension ? It is not escalating by itself. Somebody is escalating it. Who is that ?

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT : ...which poses a danger to the sovereignty, independence and the territorial integrity of the countries of the region, the regional stability as well

as threatening global peace and security. This engaged our attention right from the beginning and the Delhi Summit in 1983 expressed grave concern at the threat to the sovereignty, integrity and independence of Nicaragua.

The last meeting of the Bureau of the Foreign Ministers of the Non-aligned Movement held in Luanda in September 1985—I am giving the sequence—passed a resolution that in this regard—that is in regard to the serious conflict in Nicaragua—they urged the Government of United States to renew bilateral talks with the Government of Nicaragua with a view to achieving a concrete agreement on the above-mentioned basis. The basis is to give up the policy of confrontation, economic pressures, intervention, interference and start the process of conciliation and satisfactory and peaceful solution as a result of negotiations because the position today is that both Nicaragua and the United States have diplomatic relations. They have not broken off diplomatic relations. They have ongoing normal relations and, therefore, there is no reason why this question cannot be solved.

It is a happy sign that despite the fact that the administration last year asked for assistance having both components, the military as well as economic, the Congress there not only cut down the amount of assistance to only 27 million dollars but also eliminated altogether the element of military assistance. Military assistance was rejected by the Congress and only humanitarian aid, that is, mainly economic assistance was sanctioned. This year the administration has asked for 100 million dollars assistance—both military and economic.....

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : But this aid is being given to those who are called freedom fighters although they are the thugs.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT : I know that. There are elements in the American opinion also who are for a peaceful process, who recognise the legitimacy of the government, who recognise the Nicaraguan government as a legally constituted government and that interference in any measures amounts to an interference in the internal affairs of a Government and destabilising that government.

[Shri B. R. Bhagat]

We only hope that this year also as they did last year, the Congress will not only reduce the amount considerably but also take away the military component. Therefore, we have to keep on the pressure.....

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : Mr. Faleiro has made a very valid point. You have rightly proposed to send a team to Nicaragua to assess what help they want. But would it be possible to send a token amount of economic assistance immediately ?

14.00 hrs.

They demand immediate economic assistance' Would you like to comment on this ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : This is as a result of the discussions with the foreign Ministers we had here. This Mission is going to identify areas of development and discuss project mutually agreed to. They do not ask for a token help. We are not going to give only token help. I assure the hon. Members of this House that we will do all that is possible. There is no constraint on our part or on our will. We will do everything possible. The only constraint is our capacity and, subject to that, we will do and I agree and you also know that their demands are not very big. But we can work out a satisfactory package with the team. This was agreed to mutually. If they wanted an *ad hoc* aid like one lakh—we consider it very small—but they wanted immediately something to be sent...

(Interruptions)

PROF. G.G. SWELL : It should be one million at least.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT : They may not need one million of medical assistance.

PROF. G.G. SWELL : Not only medical, but other things also.

(Interruptions)

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : This is the function of the team. I appreciate the feelings of the House and take into account the sentiments of the hon. Members ; and we try to provide as much as possible.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN I do not want any interruptions. Let the hon. Minister complete.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT : Another positive development has been that there is a section of the American people and the Congress, you know, rejecting the process of military intervention into any other country. Everything is because of the on-going activities in the Non-aligned Movement. The activities in the region of these are contributory. A positive reason mentioned by Shri Indrajit Gupta is the "Contadora Group" i.e. Mexico, Panama, Columbia and Venezuela which engaged themselves in the process that this matter should be settled not only this matter but also the situation in the Central American region as a whole involving all of the region, all matters of conflict, should be settled peacefully. To this the Government of United States of America is also a party. They have agreed, in principle, and they support the Contadora Group's process of peaceful settlement of the problems.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No interruptions please.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : Please do not put words into my mouth. Let me give my expression. I am trying to put things in as clear and positive manner as possible.

Secondly, in order to help this, there was a separate group of the four important democratic countries of Latin America in the region—Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay—and they all said that they must process it so that the whole region as a whole is stabilised, because it accepted the principle that the situation in and around Nicaragua is fraught with dangers to world peace and stability and not only of the regional stability but the global peace and stability. This process must be first initiated by the Contadora group; that all conflicts in the region should be settled peacefully through negotiations and not through any intervention either by military or economic process. To subvert any country's freedom in the region is a dangerous process and must be rejected.

Similarly, Sir, in a declaration issued on the occasion of the Central American

Foreign Ministers, Conference of these eight countries, they met at *Cara Balleda* and there the Foreign Ministers issued a statement and gave a charter, what was called "Contadora Message", and underlined specifically that these were the processes in which matters of conflicts in the region should be settled and they are all peaceful matters and they totally rejected any military intervention or any confrontation or intervention. But, all the same, the people of Nicaragua face enormous difficulties. The intervention, the economic pressures, military confrontations, internal subversion and conflicts, go on. We attach the highest importance to the right of all people freely to choose their own path of social, political and economic development. This is an important non-aligned principle. What will be the government of a country, it is for the people of that country, in exercise of their free will, to decide. We are not concerned with the ideology. It is the people who will determine the ideology and the complexion and colour of the country. It is not for any other government or any outside government, big or small, to say that this government should be of that variety or should follow this ideology. One of the reasons for the trouble in this region is the negating of this principle. When we try to determine the composition of a government the ideology of a government through outside pressure, then this principle or process is negated, and this is one of the reasons for the trouble in Central America. We have to ensure that there is no such interference from outside in this matter.

The hopes reposed by the international community in the efforts of the Contadora countries are far from being realised. We have still to go a long way. On the one hand we hope that the solidarity expressed by the people and the Parliament of India will give an impetus to this process of

14.09 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

peaceful settlement and negotiations and the Contadora process. The search for a negotiated political solution to this region's problem, it should be realised, has been obstructed by fresh difficulties and renewed pressures. We are hopeful, however, that the collective will of the people of Central

America will ultimately triumph and overcome the present obstacles to the peace efforts. It is difficult to visualise an alternative to the intensifying of the Contadora process. It is equally necessary that it continues to address itself to the basic issues at stake. Therefore, finally we hope that the current deadlock in the peace process can be solved to mutual satisfaction through the joint efforts of the concerned countries. Failure to do so will not only have tragic consequences for the people of Central America but also carry dangerous portents for global peace and security. In these difficult days—the Members have already expressed their solidarity—we extend to the Government and the people of Nicaragua the support and solidarity of the Government and the people of India.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :
May I seek one clarification ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No. No clarification. I cannot allow. We are now taking up General Discussion on the General Budget.....

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :
Only one minute.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No. I am calling Shri Madhav Reddi.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, we have been told that President's rule has been imposed in Kashmir. PTI and UNI have already circulated this news. We have not been told anything in this House. The Home Minister should come and inform this House.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We have not received anything yet. How do we know that this news is authentic ?

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : Why don't you ask the Home Minister to make a statement ?

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central) : The news agency has already announced it, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If there is anything, they will come and announce,

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Without knowing how can you say it? So many things are circulated outside. If at all there is anything, he will come and announce.

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : Tomorrow and the day after are holidays. So it should be done today.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If at all there is anything, he will definitely come. (Interruptions)—Whom have I to direct now?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): When the Parliament is in session, the Home Minister should make a statement.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If there is anything, he will definitely come.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad): You can direct the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to convey this to the Home Minister and let him make a statement.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, they are telling that already the news is in circulation. Please convey it.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY (Viskhapatnam) : The actual facts must be made known to the House.

SHRI H.A. DORA (Srikakulam) : Is it a fact that President's rule is imposed in Kashmir?

(Interruptions)

GENERAL BUDGET, 1986-87—
GENERAL DISCUSSION

14.13 hrs.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we take up general discussion on the Budget. Shri C. Madhav Reddi to initiate the discussion.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad): Sir, it is my misfortune to speak on the general budget at a time when there is so much commotion in the House and at a time when the Finance Minister himself is

absent when I am initiating the debate and explaining the various approaches to the budget.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : The Finance Minister spoke to me personally that he is to attend the funeral of one of his closest relatives. It was rather unavoidable.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Finance Minister is having some engagement. Shri Janardhana Poojary is here. The Finance Minister will also come.

SHRI MADHAV REDDI : The debate on the general budget is losing its importance because the debate is being taken up at a time when hardly one hour is left and the House is going to take the Private Members' Business. The hon. Finance Minister is also not present here when the various aspects of the budget are being initiated and debated. That only shows that we are not giving too much importance to this debate.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : Sir, I am sorry to state that the Finance Minister has gone to attend the funeral of one of his closest relatives.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : You could have taken up the discussion on Monday. There is no hurry about.

Sir, I rise to comment on the general budget which was presented by the Finance Minister on the 28th February. It was a very long speech I think the longest speech ever delivered on the floor of this House by any Finance Minister right from Shri John Mathai and Shri Chintamani Deshmukh. It went on for two hours fifteen minutes. It was a long speech, long in promises and very short in performance?

Sir, since the presentation of this Budget several comments have appeared in the Press. The Finance Minister addressed a post-Budget press conference and tried to explain the salient features of the Budget. It has been variously described by various leaders and the institutions saying that it is a structuralist budget, it is a poor man's budget