

12.06 hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE  
LEGISLATION**

*[English]*

**First Report**

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Sir, I beg to present the Fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

12.07 hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF  
MEMBERS**

*[English]*

**Third Report**

SHRI MADAN PANDEY (Gorakhpur) : Sir, I beg to present the Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House.

12.08 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER  
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

*[English]*

**Reported Anchorage of some warships  
belonging to the United States  
Seventh Fleet off Karachi  
Harbour**

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : Ever since Ramoo-waliaji has started sitting on the seat which used to be occupied by Shri Harikesh Bahadur, his notice for Calling Attention is being admitted. His name always appears in the ballot. Shri Harikesh Bahadur also used to sit on this seat and his notices also used to be admitted.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK (Sonepat) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

“Reported anchorage of some warships belonging to the United States Seventh Fleet including the world’s largest aircraft carrier ‘US Enterprise’ off Karachi Harbour”.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B.R. BHAGAT) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the USS Enterprise accompanied by 5 US Naval vessels anchor 5 miles west of Karachi on 15th March, 1986 and departed on 19th March. Pakistan media reports indicated the presence amongst them also of a Nuclear submarine. Other reports indicated 2 Cruisers, 2 Destroyers and another vessel. Nearly 4,500 U.S. military personnel were believed to be on these ships. Government is aware of an agreement between Pakistan and U.S. permitting visits, Naval activities and ports services to each other. This is, perhaps, the large contingent to have visited Pakistan in recent times. The U.S. Ambassador in Delhi had, without giving details, informed us in advance of the visit of these ships.

Our concern about the continuing and significant U.S. military assistance to Pakistan which, in future, is likely to be on more concessional terms, has been conveyed to both the Government at various levels from time to time. We have been consistently against Big-Power presence in our neighbourhood and our stand on the implementation of the U.N. Declaration on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace has been consistent and steadfast. In addition to such Naval visits, we have also taken note of the increasing U.S. assistance to the Pakistan Navy which has no connection with the situation in Afghanistan and reports of facilities in Gawadar and other ports being made available to other countries by Pakistan. In this connection, Hon'ble Members are aware that in a testimony before the Senate Budget Com-

mittee on February 19, 1986, the U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. Shultz, included Pakistan among "military access and front line States" alongwith Kenya, Oman, Morocco, Korea and Thailand. In our draft for a Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation we had made a suggestion to Pakistan that neither country should give bases or military facilities to third countries on its territory as this is important for the establishment of durable peace and friendly and harmonious bilateral relations. This continues to be our view and subsequent developments have only confirmed it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has given a detailed statement, but as it is a serious matter I would like to raise a few points. The hon. Minister has replied that there is 1 Nuclear Submarine, 2 Cruisers, 2 Destroyers and another vessel in this fleet. In this way there are 6 dangerous vessels in all which are being led by the "U.S. Enterprise", which is the largest aircraft carrier in the world. In the history of Pakistan, it is for the first time that a fleet of warships officially designated by America visited Pakistan and we will have to think seriously over the situation which has arisen due to the arrival of this fleet in a neighbouring country.

12.09 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the chair*]

Not only India but the whole of Asia and the non-aligned countries are greatly perturbed over the arrival of the Seventh Fleet of America 'U.S. Enterprise' off the Karachi harbour. At a time, when our Prime Minister is trying to normalise relations with Pakistan, it is natural that our concern has increased due to the arrival of this fleet.

In this connection, I would like to say on the basis of a reliable information that the forces of Pakistan are deployed in large number in Poonch, Rajouri and Hajipur sectors. It creates an apprehen-

sion in our mind that Pakistan might have invited 'U.S. Enterprise' to Karachi with some ulterior motive. Of late Pakistan is creating tension by raising the issue of Saichin and sometimes by raising the issue of Kashmir thus generating a lot of excitement and tension.

If you cast a glance on the sequence of events of the last 5 to 7 years, you will find that the Seventh Fleet has been in search of additional port facility since 1980. They want some base where the personnel of the Fleet can have all the comforts and facilities. Besides this, the movement of Pakistani forces is increasing on the border of Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan has massed its troops on the border of India and has converted the Hajipur pass in the occupied Kashmir into a complete military cantonment. It has built small airports for army aircrafts at a number of places and has also constructed two airports near Muzaffarabad, capital of the occupied Kashmir, and Ravalkot in which modern radars have been installed. An incident of firing has taken place in the Poonch and Rajouri areas in which a woman and a man were injured and have been admitted in the hospital. Two new cantonments have also been established in Mirpur and Kotali where army exercises are taking place on large scale. It seems that our neighbouring country is preparing for a war.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if Pakistan occupies Saichin, it will then construct a road upto China *via* Saichin and establish direct link with China so that Pakistan and China may establish trade relations and also close relations in regard to defence. Pakistan can do this only when it gets access to China through Saichin. This has also been proved that Pakistan is providing arms, training to the sikh extremists and also harbouring them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you see the history of the 'U.S. Enterprise', you will find that it had entered the Bay of Bengal, to help Pakistan in the Bangladesh war. But when the American fleet reached the Bay of Bengal, the Pakistani army had already laid down arms and Bangladesh had emerged as an independent country. But the question arises what is the purpose

[Shri Dharam Pal Singh Malik]

behind the 'U.S. Enterprise' visit to Karachi harbour. No one is going to believe America that they are sending this fleet having 4500 military officers and personnel to Karachi for excursion. After all why Americans Chose to visit Karachi for excursion. This does not hold water that they have come to Karachi for only recreation. This fleet anchored off Karachi harbour on 15th of March and left on 19th of March. For five days, the 4,500 military personnel of this Seventh Fleet remained off Karachi harbour. This is beyond our comprehension. I would like to know what were their activities during the five days when the American fleet was anchored off Karachi harbour. Did they contact the people of Pakistan? Besides this, it may be the intention of America to shift the headquarter of this fleet from Philippines to Karachi. I would like to know what was the need for this fleet to visit Karachi from Philippines? I think this matter should be taken very seriously. The plausible reason for the visit of the Seventh Fleet to Karachi seems to be that it could study the layout of that area as well as take photographs of the area. The arrival of the Seventh Fleet could also have a great impact on the citizens of Pakistan and in other ways as well.

M.R.D. leader of Pakistan Shri Iqbal Hyder has also criticised this visit and termed it as the violation of the principles of non-alignment. I would like to know whether our hon. Minister is taking into consideration this point in all the discussions which we are having with Pakistan for establishing cordial relations with our neighbouring countries? Under these circumstances we should take a serious note of the arrival of the Seventh Fleet there.

It would have a very adverse effect on the non-aligned position of Pakistan. It would also have an adverse effect on the discussions which our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi is having with Pakistan for signing a no-war pact as also to the concrete steps taken by him.

There is another aspect of the arrival of the fleet in Karachi harbour; it will

scuttle the discussion which is going on between Afghanistan and Pakistan, because the arrival of the U.S. fleet there would annoy U.S.S.R.

It is also possible that this fleet might be carrying a large number of nuclear weapons which could be handed over to Pakistan. In this connection I would like to ask the hon. Minister if his Ministry has any information about clandestine handing over of weapons to Pakistan during the period the Seventh Fleet was anchored off the Karachi harbour. Has this fleet not taken any photographs of the border areas of Pakistan and India or not taken any maps of border areas? I would also like to know as to what was the impact of five days' stay of the seventh fleet on the people of Pakistan? There does not appear to be any sense in the plea that it had stayed there for five days for recreation.

I would also like to know why this fleet takes rest and recreation near Karachi only, when it could have stayed for five days for the same purpose in Philippines also? Why have they selected Karachi port for rest and recreation? It is also possible that they might be setting up a permanent base at Karachi, which may pose a danger to our country for all times to come. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister to give a serious thought to this matter and take this into consideration that the construction of road by Pakistan and China through Saichin would increase co-ordination in the field of trade and defence between the two countries. I would like to know as to what would be its impact on the foreign policy of India?

With these words. I express my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA (Sangrur) : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the anchorage of US Enterprise and warships off Karachi Port can lead to serious repercussions on the defence and security of our country. Sir, the Rapid Development Force (RDF) is also being brought near the borders of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Pakistan Government is

openly making allegations that the Afghanistan Government is instigating the Pakhtoon people for doing sabotage in Pakistan. It is also being alleged by the Pakistan Government, that Afghanistan Government is giving automatic weapons to the Pakhtoon people who want to create noise and law and order problem or overthrow the Government. Leave aside this point.

This is their allegation. My friend said that Sikh extremists are being trained in Pakistan. While taking the issue very seriously, I will urge upon everyone, not to call extremists Sikhs or Hindus or Muslims. Extremists have no religion. Extremist is the first-rate enemy of the human being. Any extremist, he may be Sikh, he may be of any religion, I, on behalf of my party, strongly condemn the extremism anywhere in the world, not only extremism, but also separatism.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Kindly condemn them in Punjab also.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Yes. They are condemning in Punjab also.

[*Translation*]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda) : It is not that they condemn in the House only.

[*English*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : I am welcoming the statement.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA : I have full respect for the sentiment of Shri Rawatji. My sincerity and seriousness is itself the proof of what I am saying.

Now, suppose if trouble is created in Pakhtoonistan, it will certainly have some repercussion on the defence of our country. Hon. Foreign Minister should be prepared and the Government should be prepared to meet such a situation.

I want to make it clear and let this House be told that every day Punjab Chief

Minister, Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala, says in Punjab Assembly and outside the Assembly that some forces across the border are instigating and creating trouble in our country and hon. Minister and many responsible leaders of the ruling party had been saying and yet say that extremists are being trained in Pakistan to create trouble in Punjab. But can I ask the Government "Has the Government ever taken up the issue?" It should not be mixed up with any other issue. Have you specifically taken up the issue of training of extremists, of training camps, number of trainees and location, with the Pakistan Government? Why don't they take up? They should specifically talk to Gen. Zia that there is "wide-spread resentment in our people, that training camps are there, this is the number, these are the places, such are the weapons." The interrogation will lead to certain exposition. They have never talked of it. I do not doubt the seriousness and sincerity. But I doubt why they are weak. Why do not they talk? What is the limitation before them? I will say again, clearing my view point and clearing the voice of the Akali Dal that we are as much concerned about the security and integrity of the country as anybody else. I will certainly request the Government kindly to give us sympathy, support. Take our support. We are one in this problem. We must expose the Pakistan designs. Government of India knows better and the country must be told so that a clear approach is possible towards the extremist problem in Punjab.

Now I will only take two minutes and put seven questions.

In my opinion, coming back to the pavilion, on the same subject, leaving the Punjab extremism, this is the same Enterprise Ship which came into Bangladesh War in 1971. Is it true?

(2) This visit is unusual because the warship has travelled 2560 miles from Singapore to Karachi and it carries nuclear weapons on board. It is true, hon. Foreign Minister?

(3) *The Enterprise* is part of the Seventh Fleet but Pakistan area is under surveillance by the US Sixth Fleet. Or is it the

[Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia]

Seventh Fleet? Why did a ship of the Seventh Fleet come into this area? Unless it was to assure Pakistan of total US support.

(4) Has the US attitude hardened towards India? Specific question—has the US attitude towards India hardened?

(5) Does it mean that diplomacy with Reagan by our Prime Minister has not succeeded?

This development is serious because according to the External Affairs Ministry's Annual Report Pakistan is collaborating with Sri Lanka and giving arms to that country.

(6) Considering that the Chinese President was recently in Sri Lanka and he called India a sub super power, it seems—it is certainly painful—that now India has been isolated once again in the world arena. It looks that India's foreign policy is becoming somewhat ineffective. Only USSR is the best friend while others are fighting shy of us.

(7) I demand a White Paper on our foreign policy since the new Government took over.

**SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam):** The Seventh Fleet has again appeared challenging the people of India. As the hon. Members who spoke earlier have already pointed out, this is the very same fleet and the very same *Enterprise* which came to the Bay of Bengal during the latter part of the Bangla Desh people's struggle for liberation, to intimidate the people of India and Bangla Desh.

I would like to say that the Seventh Fleet symbolises American Imperialism's aggression towards India. It is common knowledge though it is said that they have landed in Karachi for relaxation and for entertainment and every one knows that it is actually a show of strength and a warning to those who are concerned.

This is the first time that American military presence in this ocean comes to

South Asia. You know that after the fall of Shah in 1979 Pakistan acquired a special importance, a special strategic importance for USA in this region and they began to supply sophisticated arms to Pakistan. All these years since 1980 both USA and Pakistan have been maintaining that they do not want any military base in Pakistan, but now the truth has come out and that is already mentioned in the statement of the Minister that the U.S. authorities have categorically stated that Pakistan is a country where they have access and facilities. This means nothing but they are having military bases there. And the presence of the Seventh Fleet underlines the fact that U.S. is already having a military base in Karachi. This question is the culmination of the American strategy for intervention in the Indian ocean area. This form of Rapid Deployment of Forces in 1978, the revival of the supply of arms to Pakistan which was stopped since 1965 and the renewal of the Mutual Security Agreement between the U.S. and the Pakistan and also the formation of the New Central Command by the U.S. are part and parcel of the U.S. Strategy to bully the people of South Asia. Pakistan has become the tool of American strategy in the entire Indian ocean area. The main role of the U.S. in this area, as everyone knows, is to destabilise India. The new friendship between the U.S. and the Pakistan involves the sharing of Military Intelligence also. We should take note of this aspect very seriously. We know, both these countries are interested in encouraging secessionist forces inside our country. Already extremists are getting training in Pakistan. The United States is involved in every secessionist activity in India especially that of the North-East. So, the Government of India should take a very serious note of this aspect.

There is already a chain of U.S. military bases in this area. Diego Garcia has already been converted into a nuclear base. As far as our understanding goes, Diego Garcia occupies a special status in the U.S. War Programme. There is a network of bases in Egypt, Somalia, Kenya, Seychelles, Oman and Pakistan. I do not know why the Minister in his statement is reluctant to admit about the Karachi base. On the other side there is Baluchistan.

Already, the opposition Leaders in Pakistan have strongly condemned this. They have come out and categorically stated that there are bases. There is an air-base in Gawadar in Baluchistan. Why the Minister is reluctant to openly say that they are maintaining the base.

*(Interruptions)*

This is an overall part of the plan to encircle our country. Now it is Karachi; tomorrow it will be Trincomallee and after that it will be Chittagong. All these things show the imperialist plan of the U.S. We should take a very serious note of this situation.

SHRI G.G. SWELL (Shillong): What about the Coco Islands?

SHRI SURESH KURUP: The dangerous penetration of U.S. imperialism into these regions would mean the policy of perpetuation of anti-people and autocratic regimes in our neighbouring countries also. In this background, we should view this appearance of the Seventh Fleet in Karachi. I wonder why the Government of India or the Minister concerned have not come to the House with some more detailed information.

SHRI G.G. SWELL: How can he?

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Such a serious thing has happened. They used to make statement on such incidents and in this note or statement supplied by the Minister, not a word has been mentioned about any protest note given to Pakistan or to America. I want to know whether the Government of India has made any protest to the Government of Pakistan or the Government of the United States regarding this incident. We are for maintaining good relations with Pakistan or any other neighbouring country in our area. But we should take into account the fact that this should not be by submitting our interests to the imperialist interests because any such move includes the interests of U.S. imperialism. Already the American imperialists are trying to pressurize our country to sacrifice our long-term interests in getting

into an accord with the neighbouring States.

I have only two or three specific questions to ask. I want to know why the Government of India is reluctant to react to this very serious incident that has happened in Karachi. I also repeat my question whether the Government of India has sent any protest note and also whether our Government propose to take up this incident with the United States Government and Pakistan.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN (Tripura East): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the visit of the six U.S. warships to Karachi Port is a part of the global conspiracy of that super power, America, to push the people of whole world to the brink of war. I want to know from the Government whether they view this thing as a part of the American conspiracy to destroy the world or not. Sir, the hon. Members who spoke before me dealt in detail about the stockpiling of arms on our four sides in Sri Lanka, in Bangladesh, in Pakistan and in Diego Garcia to create danger for us. These have been published in all our newspapers also. Therefore, I won't go into all that. A grave danger for the whole world lies ahead. We want peace, if our Government also wants peace, then it will be our duty to make our people conscious of this danger of war and to alert them. We, who are on the side of the Communist Party (Marxists), we who are on the side of the leftists, we are holding seminars and holding public meetings to make the people of India conscious of this danger of war. Now you are running the Government. You have got more votes. From that we assume that the people support you. We want you to make the people conscious of the danger of war that is looming large and to alert them. Are you prepared to do that? Many say that we face this danger from two sides, *i.e.* from the two Super powers. On one side it is the United States of America and on the other side it is Russia. We think that this danger is being created by USA only and Do you also think like that? We

\* The speech was originally delivered in Bengali.

[Shri Bajju Ban Riyan]

don't./To combat that, Russia also has to remain prepared. You have seen its proof also. Some time ago when Mr. Gorbachav brought the proposal of disarmament for maintaining world peace, what did U.S. say? What did Mr. Reagan say? You all know that. Therefore on the question of the destruction of the whole world, on the matter of the danger of war, will the Government of India clearly state that Mr. Reagan and the U.S.A. is responsible? Will they alert the people of our country to this danger? Sir, if there is a world war, we too will not survive. A conspiracy of war is going on all around us. The Government is trying to meet that challenge by its military force. But, Sir, that is not enough. The Government will have to come forward and awaken the whole masses to this grave danger. The people will have to be made conscious of this. I conclude with that.

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa): Sir, the visit of the 7th Fleet warships at Karachi Port has sparked alertness among the people of our country and also among the people of Pakistan. As we are discussing here this issue today, we have seen reports that in Karachi itself students and people have demonstrated against this visit and they defied the military rulers—not to come out in the street and protest against it. The attention of the whole world community is also attracted to this situation.

We don't take this matter very lightly and to our understanding this large scale visit has introduced a new element in the whole situation. This is the beginning of a qualitative change in the situation in this whole region.

Now there are so many reports. I want the Foreign Minister to clarify whether it is a fact that reports are there that this move, this visit is linked with the possibility of a spill over of the Gulf war. We all know that America is striving to get Karachi as the entry point for its RDF moving into the Persian Gulf from the east

*i.e.*, Diego Garcia particularly. It seems that with this particular visit a big step has been taken by USA in that regard. We all know and it has been mentioned here also how desperately they are trying to get Karachi and Gwadar to compensate their loss that they have made in Iran.

There are reports also that it has certain links with Siachen Glacier. The USA has recently extended their area of concern to the whole of J&K in relation to their RDF forces. I am not going into other details. You have mentioned in your statement that Pakistan Government in advance informed our Government about the forthcoming visit of this ship. What did you try to do? Did you try to communicate to the Pakistan Government that you are opposed to this kind of visit as this goes against the concept of non-alignment?

We have recently formed SAARC. Is that not going to be jeopardised? We are trying to woo Pakistan for a pact. They have given their "No War Pact"—that is a fraud—and we are saying, Treaty of Friendship, Peace and all that. We should try to have friendship. But I have doubt that we are going to succeed with this Government. That is nothing but the appendage of USA. That is the main irritation in our relationship.

I want to know whether any protest was made earlier or whether after the visit any attempt has been made to express our opinion, the anger of our people to the Pakistan Government and whether you are considering to take this matter very seriously at the forum of SAARC. What does SAARC mean? If we are not to move towards a position where we can be able to keep our area free of this kind of intervention, then there is no meaning of SAARC. You may talk of economic relations but everything is decided by politics.

I also want to know whether still our Government harbours any illusions that there can be a possibility of a pact of friendship or peace treaty. No doubt, we must try for that but Government should be bold enough to educate our people that we do not harbour any illusion and not

lose our alertness as that will endanger the security of our country and the alertness of our people.

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B.R. BHAGAT):** Sir, I am grateful to all hon. Members for raising this issue. An hon. Member said that the Minister should have come *suo motu* to make a statement. I think in agreeing to the Call Attention we give the honour to the Members. It is better that they raise it. I think the Members should prefer this that they raise it and we answer it. There should not be a grouse. Actually they should give credit to the Government that we give enough importance to the hon. Members.

Sir, on an issue like this there is no difference of opinion. I have myself expressed great concern and I join the hon. Members in the expression of concern about such a visible and all-time high naval presence in our neighbourhood.

Sir, I can assure the hon. Members that so far as the question of security of this country is concerned they should rest assured that this Government will never lower its guards when the security interest of the country is concerned. This has been said often times and I repeat it again. So, on this matter there should not be any difference of opinion. The concern expressed by the hon. Members is fully shared by the Government.

Sir, the hon. Members have raised many points, namely, is it the network of bases or is the country being encircled or whether the war is coming or is the visit a spill over of the Gulf war in Iran and Iraq? Some hon. Members also raised the question of concentration of Pakistani forces on the J & K border and the situation in Siachen. All these questions have been tried to be linked. On a matter like this 'yes' because it is a matter of great concern to the hon. Members.

Sir, the basic question having been answered that we share the concern and we are very alert on all aspects of security so far as this particular question is concerned, viz., the visit of the Enterprise accompanied by five other naval ships

including possibly—as has appeared in Pakistan press—a nuclear submarine, I would like to say that on 10th March the US Ambassador in New Delhi telephoned the Foreign Secretary to say that some U.S. ships would be making a visit to Karachi on March 15. In view of the fact that U.S. ships have been regularly visiting Karachi, we had anticipated that this particular visit would be of a high profile, otherwise the U.S. ambassador would not have informed in advance.

Sir, the Press has reported that a spokesman of the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad has said that the visit by U.S. ships to Karachi is in connection with routine U.S. naval exercises in the area. Press reports have also quoted the American Embassy sources in Islamabad as discounting reports that the US feared a spill-over of the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq.

Again, according to press reports, Pakistan's Ambassador to USA, Mr. Ejaz Azim recently told the Jang newspaper of Pakistan that his country would extend the same facilities to the US Navy in its waters as it extended to the navies of other friendly countries. He ruled out any military exercises with the United States Rapid Deployment Force on Pakistan's territory. But this is the USA official view and the Pakistan official view, but that is not shared by the opposition leaders as well as the independent press there. I would like to quote some of the statements by the opposition leaders in Pakistan. Pakistan opposition leaders have criticised the Government's decision in allowing the fleet to sail in. This is for the first time in Pakistan's history that an officially designated USA Government fleet is visiting this country's shores. The opposition leaders have charged that the visit by the US ships makes a mockery of Pakistan's non-aligned position.

The official media, Pakistan Times and the Morning News have described the visit of the ships as routine and some papers have even said that these reports also claim that it is nothing unusual, because the Soviet naval ships have also facilities for calling at Vishakhapatnam. They have compared this, but the fact of the matter

[Shri B. R. Bhagat]

is that Vishakhapatnam does not allow any military ships, Soviet, or any other, but erroneously, mistakenly, deliberately or mischievously, they have tried to draw a comparison, although there is no comparison.

**SHRI G.G.SWELL :** Are these commercial ships or military ships ?

**SHRI B.R. BHAGAT :** No military ships visit Vishakhapatnam. It is a thriving port ; commercial ships do visit, but no military ships of any country.

Again, the non-official media, are critical of Pakistan Government in their editorials, in their reports and in their articles. They are severely critical of Pak Government for allowing US ships including nuclear submarine to anchor off Karachi. For example, the *Muslim*, in its editorial dated 18th March, 1986 says :

“The Government’s claim that it has not bartered away the country’s independence or granted bases or other facilities to the US is suspect now.”

This is what the *Muslim* says including granting of bases.

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :** The whole country has become the bases.

**SHRI B.R. BHAGAT :** Again, in an article in the *Muslim* by a gentleman called Rifat Hussain Syed, it is said :

“By playing host to the US 6th Fleet, we shall make lot of enemies without receiving any tangible rewards.”

Then, the *Nawa-e-Waqt* also says :

“Pakistan is not a place for rest and recreation for US armed forces. They should, therefore, leave the country.”

Then, another paper ‘Frontier Post’ says :

“A non-aligned country should not become a regular host to one of the super powers’ area patrol. Pakistan should refuse hospitality to the nuclear submarines.”

This is the feeling and concern in Pakistan itself ! We also notice the dichotomy of the official media or the Government’s stand and the people’s stand including their press in Pakistan.

So far as our reaction is concerned, I do not want to go into the whole thing. With all these security arrangements and the assistance and supply of sophisticated weapons to Pakistan, there is a strong suspicion that there must be some *quid pro quo* agreement. There must be something of this sort, although it is being denied by Pakistan and the United States. The suspicion persists and it persists in the United States, and as I have quoted just now, it persists in Islamabad itself.

For example, the celebrated columnist Jack Anderson in an article which appeared in ‘Washington Post’ on 17th January 1984 claimed that President Zia had promised to allow US planes to use Pakistani air fields, should soviet bombers threaten the Persian Gulf from Afghanistan.

An American magazine ‘Parade’ said on 5th February 1984, quoting President Zia :

“In this vital region, Pakistan stands today as the isolated bastion of the free world. Pakistan safeguards the vital interests of the US in the Persian Gulf in South West Asia and in this immediate region.”

Sir, it is a common knowledge that American presence in the Indian Ocean area has been increasing. People have talked about the ‘network’. They are not calling on all these ports just for rest and recreational facilities. Actually, there are no rest and recreational facilities in Karachi. I got the information from the Pak press that for liquor, they have to keep the barges off the coast and they have to get it from naval people (there

were about 4500 naval personnel) who were roaming in civilian guise because they were not allowed to roam in their naval outfit. Even that was objected to by the people there. They have to go back to the barges in the sea and replenish their liquor quota. So, there is no facility for rest and recreation. It is true, they are having these facilities at Singapore, Thailand and Colombo and all those places.

There is also information that at the present moment when the US Enterprise was in Karachi, two ships of Pakistani Navy, PNS Dacca and PNS Tariq arrived in Colombo Port on a goodwill visit on March 17 and they are expected to leave on March 20. You see the coincidence and you see all these activities. American presence in the Indian Ocean is on the increase. They have a network. Apart from the big giant base at Diego Garcia with all the nuclear facilities, they have a network all along the arc from Karachi to the African Coast, upto Kenya. Apart from this, they have formed an arc upto Kenya. Now, the Pakistan ships are visiting Colombo at the same moment. And all these matters are of concern to us, no doubt. And I am happy that with the people and Parliament here, the concern is among the Pakistan people also. So let us hope that we are able to work together. We are alert as far as our security is concerned, but the real answer to this is that, we are looking forward to see that Indian Ocean remain as a Zone of Peace. In our discussions and negotiations with Pakistan we put this as a basic thing. In any framework or a structure for durable peace in this region between India and Pakistan, we suggested to Pakistan the Treaty of Peace and Friendship and non-aggression. These are two vital issues in which we are still negotiating that there should not be any outside presence. There should not be any outside intervention or interference in our affairs in this region. Therefore, all negotiations should be under the Simla Agreement, that is on the basis of the bilateralism. But the second one, which is more relevant to this debate and is also very important that we suggested to Pakistan that the two country, that is India and Pakistan should not offer any base or any military facility to third

country. This is an important issue in the treaty of peace and friendship. Pakistan says that they have not offered any base to any other country—third country. They are not going to do this—if I may be permitted to use the word, dichotomy.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : They don't close the option.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT : They say, they do not want to foreclose the options of future Governments, if the future Governments want to take a different stand on such a vital matter. He also said that it is an infringement of the sovereignty of Pakistan. So, these things are there and we have to take into account all these factors.

And finally, in conclusion, I express my gratitude to the Members for raising this. This is once again an occasion to say that we are wide awake to our security interest and we are wide awake to what is happening in the region. We are projecting not only our own interest of security, but will work towards peace and stability in this region.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What do you want ?

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Sir, we discussed it here and people want to know what is in our minds, whether any formal protest has been made or not ?

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT : There is no need of a formal protest. The Ambassador himself didn't give us any opportunity to protest. He himself informs us. They say it is a routine visit. They say it is for rest and recreation only. So, how does we protest on this issue ?