

17.44 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE. U.S. BOMBING IN
VIETNAM**

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH):**
The Foreign Minister had already made a statement on the subject of Vietnam on the 19th instant. We had then expressed distress at the resumption of bombing raids and acts of war in Vietnam and conveyed our grave concern at the tragic turn of events.

Since then many countries of the world have raised their voice against these bombing raids which are evidently not confined only to military targets as claimed. According to reports several Embassy premises situated in the heart of Hanoi have been damaged or destroyed. I regret to have to inform the House that we have just received information from our Ambassador in Hanoi that in yesterday's raid, our Chancery buildings and staff quarters were damaged, though happily all our officers and staff are reported to be safe.

We cannot but raise our voice in protest at such indiscriminate bombings particularly of civilian areas and even diplomatic quarters. We had protested to the U.S. Government on the last occasion on 12th October and then the U.S. officials had expressed their regret and described the raids as 'unfortunate' and unintentional. Now we again witness repetition of the same indiscriminate bombing. Such ruthless bombings involving civilian life and property on a large-scale are a matter of the gravest concern to us. The Government of India would like to record its strongest protest at this bombing of our diplomatic premises in Hanoi.

Words fail to describe the appalling tragedy which is being re-enacted in Vietnam. Over the last one year, as the Honourable Members are aware, Government of India, have raised

their voice on many occasions in condemnation of acts of large-scale war against a tiny country and its heroic people. However, these words have had little effect and in disregard of the feelings not only of this Government but of all the peace loving people of the world, more massive bombings are being resorted to.

It appears to us that all the lessons of history, recent and remote, have gone unheeded. As recently as last year, brutal force was used in Bangladesh to suppress the will of the people but it did not succeed. It has been clear to us from the beginning that the Vietnam problem cannot be solved through military means. We are convinced that no amount of military pressure will deter or deflect the heroic people of Vietnam. In fact, if anything, it would only redouble their determination to fight the war till the bitter end and they would have the sympathies of the whole world.

Even in this tragic hour, we earnestly hope that wiser counsels will prevail and that instead of resorting to brutal force, negotiations would be immediately to find a settlement which meets with the wishes of the brave people of Vietnam.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर) :
अध्यक्ष महोदय, हम लोगों ने कहा था कि पाकिस्तान के साथ सीमा के सम्बन्ध में जो समझौता हुआ है, उस के बारे में रक्षा मंत्री वक्तव्य दे, मगर कोई वक्तव्य नहीं आया है। यह वक्तव्य कब दिया जायेगा ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वह तो आज नहीं आना था। एक्सर्टनल एफ़ेयर्स मिनिस्टर के स्टेटमेंट के बारे में कहा था।

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai):
Sir, they have expressed their condemnation about the developments in Vietnam and also their concern about Uganda.

[Shri Samar Guha.]

But about the secession or accession of territory no information has been given.

MR. SPEAKER: That is not the question that was taken up. Only the External Affairs Minister was asked.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Sir, to-day is the last day of the session. We are not going to meet for two months now. Whether there will be any secession or accession of territory—that the House is entitled to know and this information the Government is not giving.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think he was asked to make a statement about it today.... (Interruptions) This is not a subject on which he can reply offhand. We did not ask him.

श्री हुक्म चन्द कछवाय (मुरैना)

विषयनाम पर बमबारी का वक्तव्य जरूरी था और यह जो भारत की भूमि दे दी गई हम पर वक्तव्य जरूरी नहीं था ?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I only want to submit to you that any accession or secession of land to Pakistan this House is entitled to know. Today being the last day, we would like to have this information.

MR. SPEAKER: We will see in the next session.

17.50 hrs.

NATIONAL LIBRARY BILL—Contd.

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN): I beg to move:

"That the debate on the motion that the Bill to provide for the administration of the National Library and certain other connected matters, be taken into

consideration' which was adjourned on the 20th December, 1972, be resumed now."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the debate on the motion that the Bill to provide for the administration of the National Library and certain other connected matters, be taken into consideration' which was adjourned on the 20th December, 1972 be resumed now."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I will put Mr. Hiren Mukerjee's motion:

The question is:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st March, 1973."

The motion was negatived.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the administration of the National Library and certain other connected matters, be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of 45 members, 30 from this House, namely:—

- (1) Shri Achal Singh
- (2) Shri Dharamrao Sharanappa Atzalpurkar
- (3) Shri Virendra Agarwal
- (4) Shri Shrikrishna Agrawal
- (5) Shri Anand Singh
- (6) Shri Panna Lal Barupal
- (7) Shri S. C. Besra
- (8) Shri Biren Engti
- (9) Shri R. R. Singh Deo
- (10) Shri K. Gopal