

**STATEMENT RE. RESUMPTION OF
US ARMS SUPPLIES TO PAKISTAN**

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): Hon'ble Members will have seen the announcement from Washington that the United States Government has lifted the 10-years old embargo on the supply of arms to Pakistan. Government fully shares the grave concern which would be felt in every section of the House and the nation at large at this decision which can have serious consequences for the hopes we have cherished for peace and stability in the sub-continent and for more mature relations with the United States.

The House will recall that in my statement on 18th February, I mentioned that I had sent a communication to the US Secretary of State expressing our apprehension, indeed our considered judgment regarding the harmful effect which would follow the resumption of US arms supplies to Pakistan. This decision will impede the process of reconciliation between India and Pakistan and lead to justified resentment in the country.

Sir, may I repeat what we have reaffirmed time and again that we are committed to the objective of cooperative relations with our neighbours and of durable peace in the sub-continent. On the other hand, Pakistan has always invoked various arguments to continue its policy of suspicion, hostility and confrontation. This policy has proved disastrous. Whatever may have been said by the US Administration from time to time to justify arms supplies to Pakistan, it was these arms which were used on three occasions to commit aggression against India. Our concern is naturally heightened by the unfortunate experience of the last two decades.

Sir, the decision of the US Government is retrograde and will not fur-

ther the cause of peace in the sub-continent. I would like to express our strong disappointment and sense of deep regret at this decision. I would also like to assure the House that the Government is fully conscious of its responsibility and confident of nation's capability to meet the consequences of this unfortunate decision.

16.02 hrs.

**MOTION OF THANKS ON THE
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—contd.**

MR. SPEAKER: We now resume further consideration of the motion of thanks on the President's Address.

Mr. Frank Anthony.

SHRI FRANK ANTHONY (Nominated—Anglo-Indians): Mr. Speaker, the President, in his Address, has underlined the need for unity and cohesion in the context of the critical times through which the country is passing. I also, very respectfully, agree that this is the supreme need we face today—unity and cohesion.

Mr. Speaker, if I may say so; perhaps the greatest danger that we face today is a crisis of indiscipline. This indiscipline, which I describe as a crisis, permeates all levels of national life from top to bottom. I hope what I am going to say will give no offence to any section of this House. At the political level in this House—and I now have the privilege of having been officially welcomed by you as the father of this House—, in this House and in the Legislative Assembly, by and large, the norms of decorum and of discipline have been steadily, and indeed rapidly, eroded. Comparisons are obvious, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps, my memory goes back longer than most of the members of this House. I remember, when there were a handful of members on this side, four or five of us, I have been sitting in the front benches for many many years, a much-