

13.48 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE: EXPULSION OF THE FIRST SECRETARY IN THE HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA IN KAMPALA**

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): The House will be disturbed to learn of a further incident that has occurred in the last two days concerning our relations with Uganda.

We have received information that our First Secretary in our High Commission in Kampala has been asked to leave the country. Shri N. N. Desai, the First Secretary, was summoned by the Minister of Defence of Uganda at 8.30 A.M. last Tuesday, the 19th of December. Our High Commissioner who had requested that he should be present at the interview was not permitted to do so. At this interview Shri Desai was shown a letter signed by him which he had addressed to the local National Transport Company in which he had made inquiries on behalf of the High Commission about the ownership of certain cars belonging to expelled Asians in order to determine whether their owners were Indian nationals. The Defence Minister of Uganda stated that in addressing a letter to the transport company on this matter, Shri Desai had acted in an improper manner and not in conformity with his diplomatic functions. Shri Desai's explanation that these were normal consular inquiries was summarily rejected. The Minister then informed him that he should leave the country within 48 hours in view of these improper activities.

For the information of Honourable Members, I might explain that a number of cars belonging to those expelled had been taken out of Uganda by the National Transport Company and had reached Mombasa from where the Uganda Government had ordered them to be brought back on the plea that they had been wrongly exported. In making inquiries on this matter, particularly where Indian

nationals were concerned, our High Commission was obviously exercising its legitimate functions of safeguarding the interests and residual assets of Indian nationals. The High Commission in fact had already addressed a similar Note to the Uganda Foreign Office.

Our High Commissioner has lodged a strong protest with the Foreign Office of Uganda and has sought an interview with the Foreign Minister. Similar protests were also made with the Acting High Commissioner of Uganda in Delhi who till yesterday stated that he had no information on this matter.

Yesterday a Note was received by our High Commission from the Uganda Foreign Office reiterating that Shri Desai should leave Uganda by 9.00 A.M. this morning. Shri Desai left Uganda yesterday.

The House is aware of the considerable restraint Government has exercised over the past months in relation to the distressing events that have taken place in Uganda. At this stage I should like to assure the House that we are pursuing this matter and will take whatever action is necessary in our best interests.

**श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर) :**  
 अध्यक्ष जी, बड़े ताज्जुब की बात है, उन्होंने हमारे सैक्रेटरी को निकाल दिया और हम कोई रैसीप्रोक्ल एक्शन नहीं ले सकते, क्यों नहीं उन के सैक्रेटरी को कहीं कि देश छोड़ कर चला जाये ? बहुत धैर्य हो गया है, बहुत रेस्ट्रेन्ट की बातें हो गई हैं ।

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN (Wandiwash): What action is the Government of India going to take ?

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very recent matter. I think we will ask him after some time.