

(iii) ATTACK ON INDIAN EMBASSY AT
JAKARTA

Shri Indrajit Gupta (Calcutta South West): Under Rule 197, I call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

“The attack on the Indian Embassy at Jakarta on 3rd September, 1962 by a crowd of 20,000 Indonesians resulting in extensive damage to property.”

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The facts relating to this attack on the Indian Embassy have been adequately reported in the Press and I do not think it will be necessary for me to repeat them. I shall state some other facts connected therewith.

The trouble started when the Israeli and Formosan delegations sent telegrams to Mr. G. D. Sondhi early in August, as he is the Senior Vice-President of the Sports Federation or whatever it is called. These telegrams stated that the Indonesian President of Games had failed to send them identity cards. Mr. Sondhi, in his capacity as Senior Vice-President, issued a statement criticising this action. This created resentment in Jakarta and we informed our ambassadors of the legal position. They were also informed that during the earlier Asian Games held in Delhi, Manila and Tokyo in 1950, 1954 and 1958 respectively, Formosa and Israel had been invited, but UAR had not taken part, because they were not supposed to be in Asia.

On arrival at Jakarta, Mr. Sondhi actively spoke about the Indonesian action and suggested that the name of the Fourth Asian Games be changed to merely Games. This angered the Indonesians and there was violent criticism. We asked our ambassador in Jakarta on August 30 to impress upon Mr. Sondhi the desirability of toning down his criticisms. To this, we got the reply that he conveyed our viewpoint to those concerned, that is, the Indonesian officials and they had appreciated

our position. It was explained to them that Mr. Sondhi was not in any sense a representative of the Government and did not speak on behalf of the Government. The Sports Federation here is a semi-independent organisation and he was elected as Vice-President not by us, but nominated by that Federation. We were, therefore, surprised to see the Indonesian Trade Minister's statement on August 31, in which the Indonesian Trade Minister expressed his resentment at India's attitude in this matter and said something about trade relations being affected thereby. A spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs clarified the position and pointed out that Mr. Sondhi was in no way connected with the Government of India and we had no control over the Asian Games Federation, of which he was Vice President. He also emphasised our friendship with Indonesia and expressed the hope that the games will come to a peaceful conclusion. Our regret over the statement was communicated to the Indonesian Embassy here on the 1st September while our ambassador met the Indonesian Foreign Minister, who assured him of his country's friendship and goodwill for India. This was on the 1st.

The Indonesian Trade Minister's statement on August 31st, however, indicates that the Indonesian authorities were actively associated with criticising Mr. Sondhi's stand and its culmination in the incidents of yesterday, when the Indian Embassy was attacked and some damage was done to the property. There has been no report of any injury to persons. Our concern over this was communicated to the Indian Embassy yesterday evening. Our ambassador was not present at the time when this happened in the Indian Embassy. As soon as he heard of it, he came back from his house or from wherever he was, to the Embassy. The people had gone by that time. He immediately sent a note to the Foreign Office. He later met the Foreign Minister and told him that he was greatly surprised that after his last interview

with him only a day or two earlier, which was most cordial and after which he had issued a statement, this shocking incident should take place.

Secondly, in Indonesia, no meeting or procession can take place without some kind of knowledge or permission from the Government. It is not quite clear; some official there must have had knowledge of it.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): It started from the Presidential Palace.

Shri Frank Anthony (Nominated-Anglo-Indians): They were escorted by the Police.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It was called the National Front—people in some kind of a semi-uniform who went.

Shri Hem Barua: Volunteers for the liberation of West Irian also were there.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Foreign Minister apologised to our ambassador profoundly and said that all Members of Parliament of Indonesia had been deeply shocked by this incident as well as by Dr. Soeharto, the Trade Minister's statement.

This is the position. It is highly deplorable that this kind of thing should happen. We are not concerned with the merits of the matter, which was raised by Mr. Sondhi about the games. Neither were we consulted nor had we any say in the matter. But whatever that may be, to encourage the attack on the Indian Embassy in this way is extremely distressing and deplorable, as also the statement made by the Trade Minister, over which the Foreign Minister subsequently expressed his great regret.

I feel very sad about this, because our ambassador in Jakarta, Shri Apa B. Pant is one of our very successful and experienced ambassodars. Wherever he has been, he has done good work and he is very popular with the people. In fact, in

Indonesia, he is exceedingly popular. He gets on very well and he has the habit of identifying himself with the country where he is. He has made a study of Indonesian history and culture and all that. It is peculiarly surprising and distressing that this incident has taken place there.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: In the light of the reprehensible attack which has taken place on our Embassy, all I would like to know is whether Government has obtained the full texts of the various statements alleged to have been made by Mr. Sondhi while in Jakarta, in order to verify whether they contain anything which could be construed as an affront to President Soekarno in particular or to Indonesian national sentiment in general, because that is the allegation being made?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not think we have received the full text of the statements. Summaries of them have come—brief accounts in the Press and otherwise. I doubt if the full text has come. I do not think there was anything in what Mr. Sondhi said, which could be construed as an affront or discourtesy to President Soekarno.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Only those who have their names here might put questions.

श्री बड़े (खारगोल) : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस इन्सिडेंट को लेकर चाइना के पीकिंग रेडियो जॉ एन्टो-इंडियन प्रोग्राम्स शुरू किया है, क्या उनका निराकरण करने के लिए हमारे एक्सटर्नल पब्लिसिटी डिविजन ने बाकी राष्ट्रों में इस के बारे में प्रचार करने के लिए कुछ भी व्यवस्था की है।

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : माननीय सदस्य यह बात सही कहते हैं कि इसमें चीन वालों ने बहुत अधिक दिलचस्पी ली है। और इसको बहुत बढ़ाने की कशिश की है। और मुमकिन है कि इसका शुरू करने में भी उनका कुछ हाथ है। लेकिन आप कहते हैं कि और

जगह हम समझाने को कहें। जरूर और जह कुछ न कुछ हम करेंगे। अभी कल का तो बाका है।

Shri Hem Baru: Sir, if I heard the Prime Minister aright, in view of the statement that Shri Sondhi does not speak on behalf of our Government which means that our Government do not share Shri Sondhi's views, are we to understand that our Government supports Indonesia's importing politics into sports?

Mr. Speaker: That is a different matter.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is not a question of our supporting. We have not gone into it. We are not seized of their rules. We do not know even what they are. We are not prepared to express any opinion on a subject which we have not studied.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने बतलाया कि श्री सोंधी के वक्तव्य के बाद हमारे राजदूत ने इसका स्पष्टीकरण किया है कि इन के वक्तव्य का भारत सरकार से कोई सीधा सम्बन्ध नहीं है और उस के पश्चात् इंडोनेशिया के विदेश मंत्री ने भी किसी एक स्थान पर कहा है कि जो विवाद उठा है, वह धीरे धीरे समाप्त हो जाएगा और हमारे संबंधों पर इसका कोई प्रतिकूल प्रभाव नहीं पड़ेगा। जब ऐसी बात है तो फिर दुबारा कौन सी ऐसी स्थिति पैदा हुई जिस के कारण भारतीय दूतावास पर यह आक्रमण हुआ और क्यों ऐसा हुआ है, यह भी जानने का क्या सरकार ने पल किया है ?

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : यह बात माननीय सदस्य सही कहते हैं कि हम समझते थे कि बात साफ हो गई है और अगर कोई गलतफहमी भी हो तो वह भी साफ हो गई है जब हमारे राजदूत मिले थे। फिर यह क्यों हुआ यह बात समझ में नह आती है निवाय इस के कि कुछ लोगों ने उकसाया फिर से। मैं इस वक्त नहीं कहना चाहता कि किन लोगों ने उकसाया। यह बात पदों के पीछे होती है।

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Barackpore): While it is technically correct that the question as to what is to be done within a sports federation is the job of that sports federation members, when the question of Taiwan and Israel raises such tremendous reaction even amongst certain nations within Asia and the whole thing creates a certain cold war atmosphere even in sports gatherings, may I know whether the Government of India took any steps to advise Shri Sondhi before going, as he did, as one of the senior Vice Presidents of the Game, to be careful as to the way he handled this particular matter?

Mr. Speaker: It is a suggestion.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: As I read out, Sir, the Government of India, after Shri Sondhi made the statement because only then we heard about it, did tell him that he should understand the implications of what he was doing and to go slow about it.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it is a fact that Shri Sondhi made a statement once again, even after the clarification was made by our Ambassador there; if so, whether we have got the text of that statement?

Mr. Speaker: That has already been answered.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I could not follow his question.

Mr. Speaker: He wanted to know whether we have got the text of his statement.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether after the whole position was clarified by our Ambassador Shri Sondhi made any statement or spoke in any gathering pleading the case of Taiwan?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I think he clarified this matter more than once, to more than one person in authority. He did that repeatedly. Is the hon. Member referring to this matter before the attack on the Embassy or after that?

Mr. Speaker: After this had been brought to the notice of Shri Sondhi by our Ambassador, he wants to know whether Shri Sondhi made any statement after that?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot say. He did make some statements, but whether they were considered objectionable or not I cannot definitely say. He has constantly been saying something in defence of himself.

Shri P. C. Borooah (Sibsagar): May I know whether the Government will leave no stone unturned in upholding the good feeling and friendship that we have got with Indonesia?

Mr. Speaker: That is a suggestion.

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida (Anand): May I seek information, Sir, as to whether the Indonesian Government will pay for the damages done to our Embassy?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Normally, damages are paid. It is a small matter. We are not going to press it. They have said, they will pay. But it does not matter. Actually, so far as we know, the damages caused may be about Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000.

12:35 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN CHINA AND INDIA

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers:

(i) Chinese Note dated the 4th August, 1962

(ii) Government of India's reply dated the 22nd August, 1962.

(iii) Government of India's note dated the 22nd August, 1962.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-390|62].

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): Sir, I rise on a point of clarification. While the House notes with

mixed satisfaction that the battle of notes is proceeding very vigorously, may I ask what the reaction of the Chinese Government has been to the Government's latest offer for talks to resolve the border tensions as a prelude to further negotiations?

Mr. Speaker: That is a different matter.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Is it contained in the notes?

Mr. Speaker: That is not allowed at this moment.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): Will these notes be circulated to Members?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: He can say whether it is contained in these notes? The Prime Minister is nodding his head. No? Sir, he says "No". That is all right.

STATEMENT ON FLOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Alagesan): Sir, on behalf of Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim, I beg to lay on the Table a statement on flood situation in the country. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-391/62].

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Sir, will this statement be circulated to hon. Members?

Mr. Speaker: I will see that it is done.

COTTON CONTROL (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1962

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Cotton Control (Amendment) Order, 1962, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1071 dated the 11th August, 1962, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-392|62].