

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: It was as far back as in 1971 that the Indian Ocean was designated for all time as a zone of peace.

So far as the declaration part is concerned, it has been done by the United Nations, and when it has been done by the United Nations; it is an attempt deemed to have been made by every nation which is represented in the United Nations. It is not merely a question of declaration; it is a question of how we enforce the declaration and that is what it is all about. (*Interruptions*) It is not possible to permit....

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Is this not a hostile act by these Super Powers?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: The United Nations is going to convene a conference on whatever further declarations are to be made. It is better that we leave it to that conference.

SHRI R. L. BHATIA: What is happening in Diego Garcia is the strengthening the fleet of U.S. warships which are 37 in number by now. Have you raised any protest against it to them, the US Government, in this respect? He has mentioned in that statement that this matter should be raised by public opinion. What measures he has adopted for raising public opinion against this?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I have already said that this matter has been taken up. We have conveyed our concern at the highest level. But what remains to be done is mobilization of world opinion, particularly the opinion of the littoral countries; not that the littoral countries have not expressed themselves so far; they have. But this has to be done again and again until we succeed in our objectives. That is why this conference is being planned and we are making elaborate arrangements to see that the conference is successful.

Former Prime Minister's secret meeting with South African Prime Minister

***172. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the then Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, had a secret meeting with the South African Prime Minister at Frankfurt; and

(b) if so, whether the purpose and content of these talks have been ascertained?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) According to available information, Shri Morarji Desai had a meeting in Frankfurt in June, 1979, with the South African Foreign Minister, Mr. R. S. Botha. This has been confirmed by Shri Morarji Desai himself in his statement to the press reported on 16 May, 1980.

(b) Government have made efforts to ascertain the purpose and content of the talks but without success, as there is no record of the meeting available.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I would like to know, as far as the Minister is aware, whether this is the first occasion at least since independence when a Minister of the Central Government of India has had any personal contact with Minister level representative of the South African Government or whether there have been any other occasions when such talks have taken place or contacts have taken place?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: As far as I am aware, this is the first occasion. There is a total ban on Indian nationals going to South Africa on business or for tourism leave alone the heads of the Governments or members of the government talking to each other.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: In that case, if that is the interpretation of

the Government of India's stand, I think it would appear that the former Prime Minister committed a breach of the existing principles and decisions which the government has taken in this regard. I should like to know from him whether the present government has expressed its disapproval. It has not, as far as I know, because a few days ago when we were talking about Moshe Dayan's visit, we were told that there were no records available. It was made to appear that such a talk which was carried out secretly was harmful to the country's image abroad and so on. In the case of South Africa, India since the days of Mahatma Gandhi has been in the forefront of the struggle against apartheid and Morarji Desai claims to be a disciple of Gandhiji. In that sense, news appearing that he had a secret meeting at Frankfurt air port with the South African Minister, would it not do damage to the image of India, particularly in the eyes of the people of Africa and South Africa. From that point of view should not the government express itself and make its position clear?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I am expressing the view of the government here and now that this was not the proper thing to do. Our relations with the people of South Africa have been so good and friendly and we have been helping them right from the beginning, not just recently. This history is more than half a century old. So I do feel, Government feel that a meeting like this would certainly create misunderstanding not only between the people of South Africa and ourselves but between us and the people of other African countries, particularly countries like Namibia which are still struggling against foreign domination. So, I am sure that it was not the proper thing to do.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: The hon. Minister just now said that such a meeting would create wrong

impressions on the people of South Africa. But we would like to know definitely from the government whether any wrong impressions were created and if so what steps the government took immediately on assumption of office in order to see that any mischief done by such a secret meeting is corrected and things put properly.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Minister standings would come only when the information that a meeting like this has taken place, becomes known. This knowledge has come to the world only recently. Now we are taking steps to see that there is no further misunderstanding. As I said on a previous occasion, the exposure of this meeting on the floor of this House is also a step in that direction.

श्री मलिक एम. एम. ए. सां: अध्यक्ष महोदय, पिछले चन्द दिनों में दो सीक्रेट मीटिंग्स की बात हमारी नालिज में आई है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या जनता पार्टी की हकूमत के पिछले तीन सालों के दौरान इन दो मीटिंग्स के अलावा दूसरे देशों के साथ कोई और साज-झाज करने की इत्तिला है ?

श्री पी. वी. नरसिंह राव : अभी तक मैं नहीं जानता, लेकिन अगर कोई और जानकारी होगी, तो सदन के सामने पेश करूँगा ।

PROF. K. K. TEWARY: The hon. Minister admitted that the surreptitious meeting of the former Prime Minister with some representative of the—Prime Minister of South Africa violated all norms and considerations; he admitted on the floor of the House. Will he initiate a move to condemn this violation?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I do not think there is any need for going further.

श्रीमती कृष्णा साहू : भूतपूर्व प्रधान मंत्री श्री मोरारजी देसाई की जो यह गुप्त बैठक हुई, क्या यह राष्ट्र के हितों के अनुकूल थी

और क्या संसद के माननीय सदस्यों का विश्वास इसमें प्राप्त नहीं किया जा सकता था ?

श्री पी. बी. नरसिंह राव : मैं इस प्रश्न का जवाब पहले दे चुका हूँ ।

पाकिस्तान द्वारा अस्त्रों की खरीद

* 173. श्री फूलचन्द वर्मा :
श्रीमती प्रमिला बंडवते :

क्या बिबेशे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या यह सच है कि पाकिस्तान पश्चिमी देशों से लगातार बड़े पैमाने पर हथियार खरीद रहा है ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): Government have seen reports to this effect.

श्री फूलचन्द वर्मा: अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने मंत्री महोदय से बहुत सीधा और स्पष्ट प्रश्न पूछा था कि पाकिस्तान पश्चिमी देशों से लगातार बड़े पैमाने पर अस्त्र खरीद रहा है क्या इसकी जानकारी उन्हें है। इसका उन्होंने यह जवाब दिया है कि उन्होंने इस आशय की खबरें अखबारों में देखी हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं आया है, फिर भी मैं आप के माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या यह सही है कि फ्रांस से पाकिस्तान आधुनिकतम लड़ाकू विमान खरीद रहा है, जिससे भारत को खतरा होना स्वाभाविक है? साथ ही मैं यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि 26 जनवरी, 1980 को फ्रांस के राष्ट्रपति जब भारत आए थे, तो क्या उनसे इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार की ओर से चर्चा की गई थी और यदि चर्चा की गई थी, तो फ्रांस के राष्ट्रपति की क्या प्रतिक्रिया थी। उस सम्पूर्ण चर्चा का सम्पूर्ण ब्यौरा क्या है ?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: This is the latest that has come to us. A U.N.I. Report Dated Moscow and quoting Western Diplomatic Sources stated that Pakistan was in the process of buying military equipment worth Rs. 2,000 crores from various Western countries. The Pakistan Embassy New Delhi and the Pakistan

Foreign Office in Islamabad denied this and the Pakistani Press branded it as a story planted by the Indian Government to cover up its own contract with the Soviet Union, for military equipment. We are aware that Pakistan has been negotiating with various manufacturers in the United States and European countries for the purchase of sophisticated equipment and the Report that Pakistan had entered the Western Arms market with a shopping list worth Rs. 2000 crores is not likely to be incorrect. However, we have yet no confirmation as regards the number, size and the types of deal that have been finalised.

This is the position. We would certainly get this information in course of time. We are not going to leave it just at that.

श्री फूलचन्द वर्मा: अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि पाकिस्तान के पास लड़ाकू पनडुब्बियों की संख्या जो है, वह भारत से अधिक है। इसके अलावा पाकिस्तान कुछ पश्चिमी देशों से आधुनिकतम लड़ाकू पनडुब्बियां खरीदने का सौदा कर रहा है जो इस बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए कि ये जो पनडुब्बियां पाकिस्तान खरीदेंगे, उनका उपयोग भारत के खिलाफ हो सकता है और इससे एशिया महादीप की शान्ति को खतरा पैदा हो सकता है, ऐसी स्थिति में क्या भारत भी अपनी रक्षा-पंक्ति को मजबूत करने के लिए देश की सुरक्षा के लिए विदेशों से इस प्रकार के लड़ाकू हथियार, अजगर, विमान और पनडुब्बियां खरीदने का विचार कर रहा है और यदि विचार किया है या इस बारे में कोई सौदा हुआ है, तो उसका सम्पूर्ण ब्यौरा क्या है?

श्री पी. बी. नरसिंह राव: भारत अपनी सुरक्षा के लिए क्या करता है, उसमें पाकिस्तान या किसी देश विशेष को लाने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। हमारी सुरक्षा की जो आवश्यकताएं हैं, वे हम जानते हैं और उनको पूरा करने के लिए तत्पर हैं। जहां तक पाकिस्तान का प्रश्न है, हम उन से यह कहने