

opted in 1971, as the sole basis for transforming the Indian Ocean into a Zone of Peace. USA and other Western countries have introduced a whole range of issues on which they seek harmonisation of views before any steps are taken towards the convening of the Conference on the Indian Ocean. It is India's firm view that this Declaration should be implemented without changing its focus.

(b) The talks between the United States and the Soviet Union on limiting their military presence in the Indian Ocean were suspended in February 1978. US policy which has been officially articulated currently lays stress on effectively projecting US military power in this area so as to safeguard US interests.

(c) and (d). India is working with other littoral and hinterland non-aligned states of the Indian Ocean for the full implementation of the 1971 UN Resolution to make the Indian Ocean a Zone of Peace. India and other like minded non-aligned states have called upon the United Nations Ad-hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean to convene the UN Conference on the Indian Ocean which is proposed to be held in Colombo. During the VII Non-aligned Summit Conference in New Delhi the Heads of States/Governments of the member countries have strongly recommended that this Conference be held in Colombo in the first half of 1984 as proposed at the 37th Session of the UN General Assembly.

London T.V. Programme about activities of Sikh separatists

*286. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian High Commissioner Dr V. A. Seyed Muhammad agreed to figure in the item "Eastern Eye" produced by London Weekend Television and shown on Channel four on the eve of the Republic Day;

(b) if it, also a fact that the item described Dr. Jagjit Singh Chohan as president of "Khalistan" and Khalistan currency, stamps and passports were shown in it; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the Indian High Commissioner's participation in that film?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A T.V. programme, entitled "Eastern Eye" referred to Dr Jagjit Singh Chohan as President of "Khalistan" and also gave a fleeting glimpse of some items of propaganda material issued from time to time by the so-called supporters of "Khalistan". The word "Khalistan" was shown within quotes on television.

The producers of the programme had planned to bring out a programme on Akali agitation in Punjab. Consequently, they also approached the High Commissioner for an interview. After a careful consideration and taking into account the fact that this would provide us with an opportunity to present Government of India's views in correct perspective, this request was granted.

The High Commissioner was interviewed separately and alone.

In its actual transmission, however, the programme was not presented the way we would have liked inasmuch as the High Commissioner's views were presented in a lopsided manner. We expressed our unhappiness and disappointment to the management of the programme and brought the distortions therein to their notice. The management expressed appreciation of our point of view and took note of our concern.

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*287. SHRI CHIRANJILAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) since when the people of Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi have