

On the India Ocean, the Declaration, inter alia, expressed serious concern "at the dangerous tension in the area caused by the expansion of existing foreign bases, military installations, logistical supply facilities the disposition of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction as well as the search for new base facilities," and warned of the dangers of any action that would provide pretext for intervention or the presence of great powers in the area. The Foreign Ministers of Non-aligned Countries reaffirmed their determination to work for the success of the Conference on the Indian Ocean scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka in 1981 to achieve the objectives of the concept of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

**Non aligned initiative to end
Iran-Iraq war**

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346. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Non-aligned nations at their conference recently held in New Delhi took the opportunity to initiate a new move to bring an end to the Iraq-Iran conflict

(b) if so, the precise role played by India in respect of such a move ; and

(c) the response of the two countries involved in the conflict and of the conference in general thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) and (b). The Non-aligned Foreign Ministers' Conference considered the issue, reiterated certain principles of the Non-aligned Movement in this context, and set up a Group of four to contribute to the implementation of these principles.

India, together with Cuba and PLO played a crucial role in obtaining the agreement of the Iraqi and Iranian delegations to a mutually acceptable enunciation of principles which should form the basis of resolving the on-going conflict. As a result of these efforts, Iraq and Iran also agreed on the formation of a Group of the Foreign Ministers of Cuba, India, Zambia and the Head of the Political Department of PLO which would exert all possible efforts for the implementation of the said principles.

(c) Iraq and Iran, as well as the other members attending the Conference, approved the decision taken.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : I would like to congratulate the Foreign Minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao on his commendable effort in facilitating the adoption of a declaration by consensus on this very tricky and complex matter relating to foreign relations and making the Non-aligned conference a success. I would like to know how have the great powers, the powers that are interested in the Indian Ocean, in South-East Asia and South-West Asia, specially, the United States, the Soviet Union, China and other power reacted and responded to the Declarations at the Non-aligned Conference.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Sir, in so far as the countries referred to by the hon. Member are concerned, though their clear reactions are not yet available, we take it that their reactions are not against the Declaration.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : I wanted to know how they responded and reacted.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : What else can I say ? He asked generally as to what is their reaction.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Still, I am not satisfied with the answer.

There are certain countries which have started increasing their activities in Diego Garcia and other places and are building up the military losses. I wanted to know whether there are countries which have responded positively to which the Minister has answered.

I want to know which are the countries who have not yet positively responded.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : He has now put specific question with regard to Diego Garcia. We have made a reference in the Declaration to maintain the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. It is obvious that some of the countries which are involved may get slightly irked. But, it is a question of how far we can go towards harmonising our positions so far as the non-aligned countries are concerned, they have come to consensus and that consensus is to be found in the Declaration itself. So far as their approach is concerned, it is clear with reference to the Indian Ocean.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : My second question is this.

MR. SPEAKER : You have not put your second question. This is your second question. All right.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : In view of the fact that foreign relations and national security are complementary to each other, I would like to know one thing. Only recently a news item appeared that India has made a significant technological advance by which it has found strategic minerals and metals in the form of nodules in the sea bed within India's economic zone. In view of the fact that the 1971 Declaration by the non-aligned countries to keep the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace has been thrown to the winds by the great powers, I would like to know what steps other than political solutions the Government is taking to safeguard our economic interests and our national security ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : In so far as the technological development for the exploitation of the minerals in the ocean bed is concerned, it is a matter of great comfort that our technology has advanced.

There are a few countries in the world, namely, the United States, Germany, France and Japan etc. which have developed their technology with reference to the exploitation of mineral resources. So far as these developments impinge on our country we will safeguard our economic interests either in the Law of the Sea Conference or outside to the extent that is possible. No doubt certain developments are taking place which might disturb the peaceful exploitation of the minerals in the ocean bed. But, this need not cause concern because the Law of the Sea Conference is still in progress. So far as India is concerned, it would not leave any stone unturned for the purpose of protecting its economic interests within the ocean area to which it is entitled.

SHRI P.K. KODIYAN: Sir, on the basis of the consensus on most of the issues which came up for discussion at the non-aligned Foreign Ministers Conference, the unity and solidarity of the non-aligned movement have maintained and strengthened. That is the reply given by the hon. Minister. Is it not a fact that in the name of bringing about consensus on various issues India has not even expressed firmly its own position on issues like Indian Ocean, elimination of foreign military bases in the Indian Ocean and also on the question of Kampuchea ? Sir, I find in the Draft Declaration there was specific mention of Diego Garcia. That mention was deleted. There was no mention at all in the Final Declaration.

I would also like to know what follow-up steps are being taken in order to implement the positive decisions of the Conference ? I would particularly like to know about the follow-up action on the question

of Indian Ocean and convening the Conference on Indian Ocean to making it a peace zone ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: Sir, I am aware and the hon. House may be pleased to know that it is true that in the first Draft that was supplied at the end of December, 1980 there was a mention of Diego Garcia, so also in the revised Draft that was supplied to all these nations on 3rd February, 1981. Sir, these Drafts were to be supplied because we were the host country and a preliminary document was to be put forth before the Non-aligned Conference. Now, Sir, we should not forget two things. Firstly, we were the host country; and secondly, our Foreign Minister was Chairing the Conference. So, a consensus had to be reached amongst all the non-aligned countries. In this process, a little bit of give and take is absolutely necessary. Apart from that one thing which I might make clear is that the Declaration of the non-aligned countries on the question of Indian Ocean in my submission implicitly includes the reference to Diego Garcia because we have generally said what we have to say with reference to the Indian Ocean. To say that merely because Diego Garcia by name has not been mentioned we have surrendered or given a slant to our foreign policy would not be correct. As I have said implicitly there is a mention.

Even with reference to Kampuchea when two different groups take diametrically opposite approaches it becomes necessary to evolve a consensus and we have to remember that India was not only the host country but our Foreign Minister was also presiding over the Conference. So, India has to play a vital role, as a result of which the position that has emerged about Kampuchea in our view is a satisfactory one. So, in both these respects it is not a question of the ideology or the views of a particular

country alone to be forced upon others. Rather it is a case of consensus and though the Declaration reflects no doubt, a slightly moderate approach nonetheless the position is very clear.

So far as the follow-up action is concerned, I have already replied that with reference to resolving the conflict between Iraq and Iran the Foreign Ministers have met at Geneva on 9th and 10th and on other issues we are pursuing our efforts.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, my question is on the specific matter of Iran Iraq war—Question No. 346.

Sir, the Islamic Conference's initiative to end the Iran-Iraq war was also guided by the general principles of:

- (a) Non-acquisition of Territory by force;
- (b) Settlement of disputes by peaceful means; and
- (c) Non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

The Islamic Conference's initiative then went on to enunciate a concrete package proposal which was rejected by Iran.

Sir, since the non-aligned initiative is also basically guided by these three principles in what way does India feel that the non-aligned initiative has a better chance of success than the Islamic one had ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: I do not consider that the dimensions of approach of the Islamic Conference and the group of four Foreign Ministers set up by the Non-Aligned Conference are identical.

The Islamic Summit which was held in Taif from January 25 to 27, proceeded on the five elements of a formula namely:—

- (i) Ceasefire to be effective on March 12;

- (ii) Withdrawal of Iraqi forces within a month thereafter;
- (iii) De-militarisation of the area vacated by Iraqi forces;
- (iv) Supervision of de-militarised zone by a force to be drawn from countries of the member Countries of the Islamic Conference; and
- (v) Negotiations on Iran-Iraq Land Frontiers and SHATI-ALARAB.

These were the five elements on which the Islamic summit proceeded and went ahead with the negotiations. Iran rejected these proposals. Of course, no grounds have been given. But, in my submission, the dimension of approach of the Islamic Summit Conference is entirely different from that of the four Foreign Ministers of non-aligned countries. And, our approach is very clear in the Declaration itself. Therefore, Sir, I do not think that they are synonymous with each other.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: From certain reports, a suspicion existed in the Iranian mind that the Islamic Conference had a slight bias in favour of Iraq. This could have been one of the reasons why this move failed.

However, one cannot overlook the fact that of one of the main grounds on which Iran rejected the Islamic package proposal was that it did not name Iraq as the Aggressor. Has there been any evidence of Iran's attitude softening or mellowing in this regard?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: The hon. Member is perhaps right in observing that possibly because Iraq was not branded as Aggressor, Iran was not prepared to accept the proposals of the Islamic Summit. Now the question of their attitude having mellowed is something which will be clear only after the result of the exploratory meeting

on the 9th and 10th of the four Foreign Ministers in Geneva are known and they decide on the approach of having talks with the officials of the two Governments and so on. It is only then that we will be able to know whether there has been any softening of the attitude or not.

श्री मूल चन्द डागा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, ईरान और ईराक दोनों हमारे मित्र हैं और वहाँ से हैं। दस पन्द्रह अरब का व्यापार उन के साथ होता रहता है। इस लड़ाई से हिन्दुस्तान को क्षति हो रही है। आप ने बहुत कोशिश की, यह अच्छा है, उस के लिए आप धन्यवाद के पात्र हैं। 9-10 तारीख को जेनेवा में आप मिले। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि आप ने दोनों के ख्यालात की जानकारी की कि किन बातों के आधार पर उन का समझौता हो सकता है और उस को कराने में कब तक आप सफल हो सकते हैं।

श्री पी० शिव शंकर : अब वह कोशिश तो जारी है। जैसा मैं ने निवेदन किया 9-10 तारीख को मीटिंग हुई है। अब रास्ते निकाले जाएँगे कि किस तरह से उस को हल कर सकते हैं।

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, regarding this follow up action arising out of the New Delhi Declaration, at the time of the Conference itself it was reported that the Afghan delegation had proposed that on the question of Afghanistan, Afghanistan was prepared without any conditions to enter into direct negotiations with Pakistan and Iran in the presence of a representative of the United Nations Secretary-General. The Secretary-General himself was present during the non-aligned conference for a while. So, I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government of India considers this proposal of the Afghan delegation to be in conformity with the paragraph in the Declaration relating to the solution of the Afghanistan problem? And if so, are they pursuing this

matter as far as it is possible for them to do, so that some follow up action can be taken ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR :
Sir, my friend has posed a rather delicate question. It is no doubt true that so far as Afghanistan is concerned, they said that they were prepared to sit for the negotiations unconditionally. Now, he would like me to interpret that paragraph in the Declaration and to say whether the views of the Indian Government are in accord.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
No, I did not ask that. I asked whether that is in accord with Declaration's view i.e. there should be a peaceful solution.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR :
Sir, I take it that the Hon. Member has carefully read the Declaration itself. And for the benefit of the Hon. Members, I may be permitted to read that Paragraph which deals with the situation in Afghanistan. I will read Paragraph 82 :

"The Ministers noted with grave concern the situation in South-west Asia and agreed...

SOME HON. MEMBERS :
It is well-known.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR :
If it is well-known, I leave the interpretation to the Honble Members concerned.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
What about follow up action ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR :
Follow up action will certainly be in terms of the Declaration that has already been issued.

SHRI EDUARDO FAREIRO :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the matters like Kampuchea Afghanistan are concerned, they are important, but they are rather being over-played by the non-aligned Movement because after all these are merely theatres of super power conflict; and there

is a very important and vital aspect which concerns the Non-aligned Movement, which so far, except, at Non-aligned Conference, did not receive that much of importance and that is the economic condition of the non-aligned countries considered as a whole. Now Sir these poor economic conditions are largely the result of the failure of the North-South dialogue of non-cooperation of the Western countries. In these circumstances, the South-South dialogue, the greatest cooperation between the non-aligned countries should be there. Now, will the Government, which is really the leader of the Non-aligned Movement, give greater importance to the economic cooperation between the non-aligned countries.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR :
Sir, I may not subscribe to the view of the hon. Member that the non-aligned Conference has over-played the issue of Kampuchea or Afghanistan. While I respect the view of the hon. Member, I also respectfully beg to disagree with him. So far as the question of the non-aligned countries entering into negotiations with reference to economic cooperation for development is concerned the Declaration already makes a mention about it and so far as India is concerned, we welcome the Declaration.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Government has taken note of the serious developments in the Indian Ocean region and also in Afghanistan and other areas. After the non-aligned Conference, it is a fact that the Naval presence of almost all the big powers in the Indian Ocean has increased and they are improving the naval base in Diego Garcia for the B-52 bombers and even trying to get naval bases in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. And again in another two months, time Pakistan is going to have a nuclear explosion : Well, all these developments which are taking place after the non-aligned Conference

have increased tension in this area. May I know whether the Government has taken note of the new developments ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Sir, the Government is aware of the developments that are taking place all around and the Government being seized of the situation, would not like to act in a manner where these sensitive issues could create complications. The hon. Member is aware that with reference to the resolution of the United Nations in 1971 regarding the Indian Ocean being made a zone of peace, we are expecting a meeting where the United States might also be present in Sri Lanka.

Thus, so far as we are concerned, we are alive to the situation. We would not like to interfere in sensitive matters. But in this matter we are grappling with the situation.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-PAYEE : We have to judge every issue on merit. Have we informed our Iraqi friends at any stage that we do not approve of their military action against Iran and that they should withdraw from the Iranian territories without any condition ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : The hon. Member who has had greater experience of Foreign Affairs than myself would bear with me when I say that it would not be fair for a non-aligned country like ours to specifically say so to a particular country to which we are going for the purpose of negotiations with a view to evolve a formula and to go on branding it as an aggressor. It would not be a proper approach.

SHRI ATAL BEHARI VAJ-PAYEE : The hon. Minister did not understand my question. I did not want India to take a public position. I wanted to know whether any private talk... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the answer will become public.

SHRI ATAL BEHARI VAJ-PAYEE : Let him say it in a diplomatic manner. (Interruptions) I understand his difficulty. He is the Minister for Law, Justice and Company Affairs, not Foreign Affairs. (Interruptions)

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : Sir, in view of the declaration of the non-aligned Conference, the non-aligned nations were against any interference in the internal affairs, directly or indirectly, of any nation. Has the Government of India taken note of the recent declaration of the Reagan Administration that they would arm the Afghan guerillas and send them inside Afghanistan ? Now, they have taken a public stand and are openly saying that the guerillas are operating in Afghan borders with the help of America. Has the Government of India taken note of this and what is the reaction of the Government to this

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : The hon. Member has very correctly observed that our policy upholds the principles of non-intervention and non-interference. While we take note of what others say, we will stand by our principles.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Reconstruction of Cuttack Station

*330. **SHRI A.C. DAS :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has a proposal for the reconstruction of Cuttack Railway Station during 1981-82.

(b) whether his Ministry has also a proposal to construct an over-bridge at the level crossing of this station ; and

(c) if so, the progress made so far and the details thereof ?