

12 hrs.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

ASSAULT BY CONGOLESE SOLDIERS ON
INDIAN OFFICERS SERVING WITH THE U.N.
AT LEOPOLDVILLE

Mr. Speaker: I have received a number of adjournment motions on one matter. The earliest is from Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria, and it reads thus:

"Beating of Indian Army officers and soldiers now working in Congo with United Nations, and threat to their lives. Cutting from today's papers is attached for ready reference."

The same thing, in some form or the other, is the subject-matter of all the other adjournment motions also.

Does the hon. Prime Minister want to make any statement?

Some Hon. Members rose—

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Ferozabad): Could we make a submission before the Prime Minister makes his statement?....

Mr. Speaker: I shall hear hon. Members who have received directly telegrams or wireless communications or have their own agencies, independent of the Government. I am willing to hear them. If all these motions are based upon newspaper reports, every one has read them. Hon. Members must not merely state the newspaper reports and make their own comments here, but also elicit information from Government and find out whether they have more information; after all, they may have an agency there. When even Government may or may not have an agency there, there is no purpose in spending away the time of the House in this manner. Let us hear the hon. Prime Minister.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): May I make a humble submission? I want to make only a suggestion.....

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is in the habit of interrupting. I shall call him, if necessary. He is indispensable. I know that. Now, the hon. Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I am not surprised at the spate of motions, notice of which has been given to you, although, perhaps, the question does not fit in with an adjournment motion as such.

Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria (Etawah): Why?

Mr. Speaker: Apart from that, I am not going to accept an adjournment motion merely because it is tabled. But it is a serious matter. We should hear the hon. Prime Minister.

श्री ब्रजन सिंह भदौरिया : भारतीय
सेना के अधिकारियों को पीटा जाये
(Interruptions).

Mr. Speaker: Why should all the hon. Members be anxious to speak now? Let us hear the facts first.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: This is, as you have been pleased to say, a very serious matter. When I first heard of it last night at about 10 P.M. or, in fact, nearer 11 P.M. I was deeply shocked and exercised over this matter. I saw at that time the press messages from Leopoldville. We had no special direct message from our own representative there, nor indeed have we received any direct message yet. Immediately, last night, on receipt of this, I sent telegrams to our representative in Leopoldville, our Ambassador there, and one to our permanent representative at the United Nations. As for our representative in Leopoldville, I merely drew his attention to the press messages that had come, and I wanted him to send me immediately an authentic account, because Governments normally function not merely on press accounts but after authentication. So, I have sent that message to him. I drew the

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

attention of our permanent representative in the United Nations to this and told him that we had asked our representative to send him also a more authentic account, and I expressed our grave concern. Indeed, in our telegram, we pointed out, and we have mentioned that, you can well imagine what the reaction of this news is going to be tomorrow morning on Parliament and indeed on the nation generally. We have asked him to see immediately the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the General Assembly, and to convey to them not only our deep concern, but the enquiry as to what is going to be done about this matter, and what steps they are going to take, because, apart from the personal sense of injury and indignation that we have received on this news, the wider questions connected with it are also of deep significance.

I did not expect this kind of thing, of course, but certainly, I had a sense of foreboding of which perhaps I gave some indication in what I said about the Congo yesterday or the day before, in the course of the debate here. I felt that things were moving in that direction, because we have to deal with in the Congo, apart from every other thing, mob rule, and mob rule not of the mob but of the so-called Army turned into a mob. And that is the most dangerous situation of all. We have drawn attention to this fact, and I ventured to say yesterday or the day before about the way these Armed Forces have been functioning there, the Armed Forces which are supposed to be in the command of Col. Mobutu; either they are under his command or even he cannot control them; if they are under his command and they function as they do, then, Col. Mobutu is responsible; if they are only ostensibly under his command and they do what they like, even then, Col. Mobutu and whoever he takes his orders from—if any person—are responsible.

It has been our feeling, and this is brought out in Mr. Rajeshwar Dayal's report, that this Congolese Army as it is, is a dangerous element in the situation there. The House may remember that it indulged in a great deal of looting and beating and shooting in Leopoldville, that is, in the African quarter of Leopoldville, and it was with some difficulty that the United Nations Organisation there managed to draw them out there and send them outside the city, outside Leopoldville. But for some reason that I am unable to understand, on the United Nations Day, which was celebrated some little time ago, they were allowed, asked, invited or allowed to come back to the city, to take part in the United Nations Day parade there, in which the United Nations Forces took part, and they also took part. Apparently, since then, they have stayed there, with the result that we see. I am afraid that the suggestion that we have made, and we have been making all this time, in regard to this Army being put under some kind of control, or disarmed, have not been acted upon, and we see the result of it.

So far as our officers and men there are concerned, I should repeat what I said previously. We have not sent any combatant troops; they are not combatants; the others are combatants; I mean the troops from the other countries that have sent them; but our troops are non-combatant troops; they are used for supplies, for signalling and for hospital work. I do not know the exact number, but, broadly speaking, they are about 770 or 780 in number, at the present moment there, including some women nurses. That is the position.

I have received no further news. I can assure the House that we take the gravest view of the situation. We can only function in this matter, broadly speaking, naturally, through the United Nations Organisation in New York, that is, through the Secretary-General, through the President

of the Assembly, and if necessary, through the General Assembly there, and we propose to function. But, for the moment, as I said, the action that we have taken is to ask our permanent representative immediately to see the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly. As soon as any further news comes to me, I shall place it before the House.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that a virtual war of aggression against the United Nations troops is waged by Col. Mobutu's Forces, may I know whether any assurance was sought and received by our Government that there would be no insecurity to the life and property of our people working there under the auspices of the United Nations?

Shri Naushir Bharucha (East Khadesh): We are now on the question of the admissibility of the adjournment motion. This is not the proper occasion to go into other matters.

Shri Hem Barua: The Prime Minister has admitted that he had forebodings. May I know whether he was posted with facts from time to time by our representative there? If he was, what action did he take prior to this outbreak to protect our men there?

Shri Mahanty (Dhenkanal): At this stage, what you have to consider is only the admissibility of the motion. The Prime Minister has largely covered the ground, the issues at stake and their merits. First, you have to consider whether it is not a matter of urgent public importance. We consider that it is a matter of urgent public importance. Here we are not speaking across the floor. It is not a partisan issue. It is a national issue, as the Prime Minister pointed out. It has agitated the nation considerably. If it is not a matter of urgent public importance, then certainly you can rule it out. But the pertinent question, to which I should like to draw pointed attention is whether there is any significance in the spurt of violence that we have seen in Congo

synchronising with the seating of the Kasavabu delegation in the UNO. If there is any significance, it is the bounden duty of Government to tell the House and the nation about it. We cannot send our officers to the Congo to be beaten there mercilessly and to be subjected to humiliating treatment.

I plead with you not to take a very technical view of this matter, and with the Leader of the House not to take a very narrow technical view of the matter. This House should be provided with the earliest opportunity to discuss this matter so that we can convey our feeling to the UNO, how we feel about it and how the nation reacts to it.

Raja Mahendra Pratap (Mathura): I have also submitted an adjournment motion. I beg to say that our Minister of External Affairs has failed entirely. He should resign as Minister of External Affairs. As Prime Minister, we all adore him, but not as Minister of External Affairs. Some words which come out of the mouth of the External Affairs Minister create this difficulty. He said just now that the army there is a rebel army. When you say that, the army becomes against us.....

Mr. Speaker: Order. order. The hon. Member is anticipating my ruling. If I admit the adjournment motion, then possibly he might make a remark like that after it is passed, whether the hon. Minister of External Affairs should continue in his office or not. I am not going to allow it now.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: In my adjournment motion, I have definitely mentioned that there has been a failure of the Union Government to take effective measures through the UN Organisation, to prevent outrages by Congolese soldiers on Indian personnel operating in Leopoldville. May I point out that just now the hon. Prime Minister himself confessed that he had already forebodings as to what was going to come? In spite of these forebodings, knowing what

[Shri Naushir Bharucha]

the situation was going to be, no prompt action was taken through the UN Organisation for effective protection of our personnel. The matter is not merely one of humiliation which the nation which sends the personnel suffers. It is really a question of the entire future of the UNO being in the melting pot. Unless an effective way is found and suggested to the UN as to how this situation is to be dealt with, I am afraid that the hon. Prime Minister will one day come to us and report that a further deterioration has taken place in the situation and probably he will withdraw our armed personnel. The point I am making is that the Government have failed to take effective action in time through the UN Organisation, knowing full well or having forebodings, as the Prime Minister says, that these things were going to come about. The Government have failed in their duty.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: I have to submit that this has happened in the Congo since President Kasavubu's nominees were allowed to sit in the UN. It seems that whatever has happened there may involve us not only in the cold war but even in a hot war. So the matter is very important and requires discussion in this House. As the Prime Minister has himself said, there is great indignation in the country over the incident. If Parliament does not express itself, the world may conclude that the country was not concerned about it.

Shri Parulekar (Thana): I had given notice of an adjournment motion.

Shri Nath Pal (Rajapur): Mr. Speaker, I had sought to write to you because I was not convinced in my mind that this incident could be the subject of an adjournment motion. I am not convinced of the responsibility of the Government of India for what Col. Mobutu is responsible in Leopoldville. I can only say on behalf of us that we share the concern and anxiety

which the Prime Minister has expressed on behalf of most of us, if not perhaps all of us. Of course, I would like that the matter is as energetically pursued as he has indicated the Government of India want to. But I cannot associate myself with a motion wanting to censure the Government of India for the folly of Col. Mobutu. (*Interruptions*). I am speaking on my behalf.

On the contrary, I think we have been following a very correct policy. We would like to have an opportunity for discussion not to censure Government but to express the anxiety and indignation of this country....

An Hon. Member: Col. Mobutu has done it. (*Interruptions*).

Shri Nath Pal: But the Government of India cannot be held responsible for that.

We would like to have an opportunity to express our concern and anxiety at the way the authority of the United Nations is being sought to be circumvented by subterfuge by some people and at the way the Indian personnel are being handled there.

Shri S. V. Parulekar: The Prime Minister has narrated the steps he has taken in connection with the events which have taken place in the Congo. What we feel is that these steps are not enough to safeguard the security of Indian nationals, nor sufficient to deal with the other issues which are involved in the developments in the Congo.

Therefore, it is necessary that this matter should be thoroughly discussed as we feel that the implications of the crisis in the Congo have not been yet quite clearly understood by the Government. Apart from Col. Mobutu, there are Imperialist Powers headed by the USA which are responsible for the happenings in the Congo. Unless this is taken notice of and steps are taken, the UNO will be able

neither to function effectively nor to safeguard the security of our nationals. Therefore, this adjournment motion should be admitted and a discussion allowed because this is a matter which involved grave issues.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta-Central): I do not feel that while we should have a discussion on matters which have cropped up, it ought to be by way of an adjournment motion. I say this because only yesterday we concluded a discussion on foreign affairs. . . .

Shri Naushir Bharucha: This is a new development.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee:and the House heard what Government has done in the United Nations General Assembly. The question of our being in the Congo and one of our nationals being deputed as an international civil servant to be in charge of operations there also had come into the picture. I do not feel that a discussion by way of even a remotely-implied censure of the activities of the Government of India in relation to the Congo should be there. But I do feel that there should be a discussion because I want to find out from Government more facts when they are available in regard to how this posture of affairs has come about in the Congo.

I am sure that steps would be taken to stop the rot, but I should like very much to know how it is that this kind of thing has come to take place. We have seen reports in the papers how the representatives of certain Powers have been trying to sabotage the work of Shri Rajeshwar Dayal and the United Nations Organisation. We have seen also how behind Belgium, which has been the villain of the piece, there are certain other Powers which are pulling strings in diverse directions.

I know the Prime Minister might be inhibited, to a certain extent because of his official position, from

giving expression to certain feelings which are uppermost in the minds of many people in this country. But we should like to know more about those facts. We should like to know how it is that the situation has been permitted to degenerate in the way it has happened. That is why when Government gets to know more facts about the matter, the Prime Minister will, I hope, present those facts before us. On the basis of those facts, we should have a discussion so that our policy in the United Nations in regard to the Congo and allied matters might be properly formulated after discussion in Parliament. In the meantime, I am sure all sides of the House have every confidence in the way the Prime Minister conducted himself and his country's foreign policy in the United Nations.

So I repeat that I do not wish an even remotely-implied censure of Government in relation to the Congo, but I do want that there should be a discussion in this House on the basis of such information as, I fear, have not been divulged to us, because of the Government's sensitivity in regard to certain powers which are behind Belgium in pulling strings in a most pernicious way in order to bring about the state of things which have come about in the Congo.

Shri Khadiikar (Ahmednagar): Sir, it is not a matter for an adjournment motion. I entirely agree with what my hon. friend Shri Mukerjee said. But the question is that a certain decision taken at the U.N. Headquarters yesterday according to recognition to Kasavubu has directed repercussion in the Congo; and the time has come to make known not only the simple concern of this House, as my hon. friend stated, but also where we stand in that conflict and let the UNO know that all the world over people are concerned over the position. It has a direct bearing on the prestige of the United Nations—whether it survives or fails. This must be discussed in a different way and not as an adjournment motion.

श्री आसर (रत्नागिरि) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, कल ही वाद विवाद के समय माननीय सदस्य, श्री त्यागी ने प्रधान मंत्री जी से प्रश्न पूछा था कि जो लोग वहां काम कर रहे हैं, उनकी सुरक्षा की वहां क्या व्यवस्था है। प्रधान मंत्री जी ने बताया था कि ये लोग अपनी रक्षा करने में समर्थ हैं। लेकिन अनुभव से देखा गया है कि हमारी सरकार ने उन लोगों की सुरक्षा के बारे में कोई विचार नहीं किया है और हम लोगों ने देखा है कि बहुत से हमारे लोग वहां पीटे गये हैं। इस लिए मैं समझता हूँ कि यह प्रस्ताव बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है और इस पर विचार करने की आज्ञा दी जानी चाहिये।

श्री अर्जुन सिंह भवोिया : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं समझता हूँ कि यह बताना बहुत जरूरी है कि कांगोई सैनिक

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is entering into a regular debate on the adjournment motion. I will not allow it. I think the hon. Prime Minister has to say something.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I should like to make it clear that not only have I no objection to a discussion of this issue, but, indeed, at a slightly more appropriate time, I would welcome it. But, I do think that a motion for adjournment is not the proper way to approach this. Secondly, just at present, we are really not in possession of much more information than what has appeared in the Press. I have no doubt that some more information would be coming to us in the course of a day or two. Further we shall be in some better position to know what action, if any, the United Nations Organisation that is in New York intends to take about it. And that may be a more appropriate time for a discussion in this House. I do not wish any long-term postponement of this discussion; but I think we should at least wait two or three days—maybe 3 days.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: What about Monday next?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot fix any time; I wish to see what the position is. Because, as I said right at the beginning, this is a matter which affects the dignity not only of India but of the United Nations also.

Hon. Members have asked me what we have done or will do to give protection. Shri Hem Barua said something about guarantees, what guarantees did we take. Well, surely, when we function in this way, we do not go about asking guarantees—how you protect us? I still repeat we are well able to protect ourselves anywhere at any time. We do not want nurses to look after us, wherever we go. But, it is not a question of protection. If a number of hooligans come into your bed-room and stab you, it is mob rule. They come with bayonets and when a person is shaving—you have seen it in the newspapers—and threaten him with a bayonet. This simply means a breakdown of any kind of law and order. But the most unfortunate aspect of it is that the persons who are indulging in this are called an Army, with arms and weapons. Really, it is little short of scandalous that this kind of thing should happen. And, we are repeatedly asked, 'What did you do about it?'

Shri Bharucha said about my mentioning that I had a sense of foreboding. I said so then; not a foreboding that people would come and attack our officers. That particular thing, naturally, I did not think. But the whole structure is collapsing there because of the mob of an Army which does what it chooses apparently. Therefore, we cannot deal with the situation except through the United Nations. Or else, of course, if we feel that we can serve no purpose we withdraw our people. Maybe. But, I do not propose to do that. I know that is rather a weak attitude, to run away from a situation. I do not propose to do that. But, we do propose

to pursue this matter in the United Nations, not as others feel. There are many people who feel that way too.

But, unfortunately, this has got entangled with other pulls. And, as I ventured to say, I think, yesterday, that the question of Kasavubu's nominees being seated in the General Assembly and recognised—I do not connect the two at all, this and that—it is a part of the picture of these pulls in various directions. I think it would have been wiser if this matter had been postponed a little there, and, in the normal course, this Delegation from the United Nations had gone there and reported; and then the matter could have been taken up. It would have done no harm. But, as often happens, even small matters become questions of prestige and most people think that this should be done or this should not be done. And so, it was dealt with in that way.

Nobody denies the legality of President Kasavubu's position; at any rate, we do not do so. But there are many things which have been done there which do not seem to be legal at all or constitutional. It is not quite clear to me how far Col. Mobutu has been encouraged by President Kasavubu—I cannot definitely say to—but it would appear that, to some extent, he has received this encouragement. I cannot connect these two.

Even in this matter, in the United Nations we voted again the seating of the Congolese representatives at this stage. I lay stress on 'stage'. Because that itself became an issue, a major issue; but it need not have been. There was no point in this because it had previously been decided to postpone the discussion of the Congolese issue till this Delegation of the U.N. had been there and reported. It is a question of a fortnight; and it would not have made any difference. This was pushed in and it was passed. And, these gentlemen, presumably, are now seated in the General Assembly.

Therefore, another development arises because they are seated there. The Congolese Government is represented in the General Assembly because they are seated there; and it becomes even more, from another point of view, the function of the United Nations to deal with this situation.

I do not quite know myself whether Mr. Kasavubu is still in New York. Presumably he is, I am not quite sure. (Interruptions). As for Mr. Rajeshwar Dayal I do not fully know. He was to have gone back yesterday. I am not sure if he has reached there; possibly he may reach there today.

So, I suggest, subject to your wishes in this matter, that after two or three days we might set aside some time of the House for me to report to it further developments and discuss them.

Mr. Speaker: So far as the adjournment motion is concerned, it was only yesterday that we had a full-dress debate..... (Interruptions).

Order, order. Why is the hon. Member impatient.

We had a full-dress debate for a couple of days and, ultimately, this House approved the Foreign policy of the Prime Minister and the Government of India. The Prime Minister made clear our position so far as the sending of some contingent—though not a regular fighting contingent—for the purpose of assisting the United Nations, was concerned. It has also been accepted by this House that whatever assistance was given to the UNO or whatever contingent was sent from here was right. I am not going to allow a reversal of that. If per chance there are other circumstances it may require a different action. But having already taken part in the UN assistance and having sent our troops to Congo, let it be definitely understood that the Government is not in the wrong. That cannot form the subject matter of an adjournment

[Mr. Speaker]

motion either today or on some other day. But the problem is serious; our people ought not to be harassed or ill-treated and our officers ought not to suffer like this. Certainly, the House would like to know the steps to be taken to avoid any recurrence of such things in future.

The hon. Prime Minister says that he will supply the details. There is no harm; we will watch the situation and the progress of the developments there. Next week—not necessarily on Monday—we shall certainly have a debate on this matter. That will be only with respect to what ought to be done to safeguard the interests of our people, having regard to the fact that what we have done to assist the UN by sending our contingents is all right. The hon. Prime Minister says that, consistent with the security of our men, we may also suggest or consider whether it is necessary to withdraw. That is a serious matter to consider.

I do not give my consent to this adjournment motion. We will have the details after we hear the Prime Minister and we will fix up some time in consultation with the Government and the Leaders of various Groups.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Whatever information is received by the Prime Minister may be placed on the Table of the House.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members are aware that the Prime Minister has never withheld any information from this House. As soon as he gets some information, he will place it on the Table of the House whatever information can be placed.

**SETTING UP OF ROCKET BASES AND
LAUNCHING OF ROCKETS IN TIBET**

Mr. Speaker: There is another adjournment motion which reads as follows:

“Serious situation arising from Rocket bases being set up and

rockets being launched in Tibet and thereby endangering the security and defence of India.”

Has he anything to say about it?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am totally unaware of it.

Mr. Speaker: We had a debate only yesterday and the day before about our Borders.

Shri Mahanty (Dhenkanal): An article appeared in the *Statesman* by Desmond Young wherein he had mentioned that while they went in search of Yeti across the Himalayas, they found some rockets being launched. It is a serious matter . . . (*Interruptions.*)

Mr. Speaker: The whole of yesterday was spent on this discussion * * * (*Interruptions.*) Order, order. Have these things taken place there after yesterday's discussion? I ask the hon. Member: what do you suggest to the hon. Prime Minister with regard to this matter? The hon. Member is entitled to write to the hon. Prime Minister as to how he can prevent the rocket. There is no meaning in taking up the time of the House in discussing matters which cannot be disposed of easily. This motion is also disallowed.

12.34 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

**AMENDMENTS TO THE COAL MINES
(CONSERVATION AND SAFETY) RULES**

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following Notifications under subsection (4) of Section 17 of the Coal Mines (Conservation and Safety) Act, 1952, making certain further amend-