

14.05½ hrs.

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME
MINISTER ON HER RECENT
VISIT ABROAD

The Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shrimati Indira Gandhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House is aware that I visited the Soviet Union from July 12th to 16th in response to an invitation extended to me by Chairman Kosygin soon after I assumed office and renewed twice thereafter. *En route* to Moscow, I took the opportunity to meet President Nasser in Cairo and President Tito in Brioni, in response to their earlier invitations.

Hon. Members are aware of the very close and friendly relations we have with the three countries. With the U.A.R. and Yugoslavia we are bound closely by common dedication to the policy of peace and non-alignment and by close co-operation in many fields and on many occasions in international conferences. Personal contacts between the Heads of these Governments and our own have been frequent and fruitful.

It was a great pleasure for me to renew this personal contact with President Nasser and President Tito. With both leaders I had frank and friendly exchange of views on the international situation, particularly as it affects the policies of non-aligned countries. Both President Nasser and President Tito shared our desire to strengthen the policy of non-alignment and peaceful co-existence, which plays such a vital role in the maintenance of peace and friendly relations among States. They also shared our concern at the various pressures to which the policy of non-alignment and peaceful co-existence is being subjected, both in the political and economic spheres. We discussed our bilateral relations which have happily been developing satisfactorily with both the U.A.R. and Yugoslavia, and agreed that they should be further strengthened in various fields including economic, cultural and scientific, to our mutual advantage.

I informed President Nasser and President Tito of our sincere desire for friendly and good neighbourly relations with Pakistan in the spirit of the Tashkent Declaration. I also informed them of China's hostile and provocative attitude towards us and of our friendly and co-operative relations with our other neighbours, such as Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon, Nepal, Malaysia and Singapore.

Both President Nasser and President Tito agreed that we should co-operate with one another and with other non-aligned countries for making non-alignment a dynamic force for the lowering of tensions and for promoting peaceful co-existence in the present-day strife-torn world. They said that they were looking forward to the tripartite meeting to be held in October this year in India where these matters could be discussed further.

It was agreed to institute regular consultations between India and the U.A.R. and India and Yugoslavia on matters of common interest. We agreed that personal contacts between us and between our Ministers, officials and others are invaluable and should be as frequent as possible.

In the course of my State visit to the Soviet Union, I had discussions with Chairman Kosygin and Mr. Brezhnev. while the Minister of External Affairs, Sardar Swarn Singh, met the U.S.S.R. Foreign Minister, Mr. Gromyko, and the members of the delegation had discussions with officials of the Soviet Government. My talks with Chairman Kosygin and other Soviet leaders took place in an atmosphere of frankness, friendship and complete understanding. The discussions covered a wide range of subjects of mutual interest to both our countries.

We discussed, in particular, the post-Tashkent developments in relation to India and Pakistan. I acquainted him with certain developments on the other side of our borders which were causing us concern. I apprised Chairman Kosygin and his colleagues of the steps which India had already taken in this direction, to implement the Tashkent Declaration, including some of the unilateral steps taken by us such as the removal of trade embargo and release of confiscated embargo and our desire to have talks with Pakistan at any level and without any pre-conditions in the spirit of the Tashkent Declaration so as to build friendly and good neighbourly relations with that country and resolve all our disputes peacefully. Chairman Kosygin expressed positive appreciation of our position. The Joint Communique briefly reflects our discussions on this subject.

I was glad to find that there is no change in the basic position of the Soviet Union on important questions of special interest to us. I was assured that their stand on Kashmir remains unchanged. While the Soviet leaders expressed their desire to improve relations with Pakistan, they assured us that this would not be at the expense of their friendship with India. They also assured us that they had not supplied any arms or armaments to Pakistan nor had any agreements with Pakistan been made in this regard.

On international questions, our discussions confirmed the identity of views on a broad range of international questions, such as peace and security, renunciation of the threat or use of force, resolution of international disputes including border disputes solely by peaceful means, the acceptance of peaceful co-existence as an imperative for the maintenance of international harmony and of the freedom of dependent peoples.

We also discussed the question of strengthening world peace and reducing international tensions. We

agreed that it would help if all military alliances were simultaneously dissolved. We consider this a step forward and hope that sooner or later all countries will realise that military alliances hinder rather than foster mutual trust and confidence.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, before my departure, I had, in the course of my broadcast to the nation on the evening of July 7, put forward certain ideas as a possible basis for a peaceful solution of the Vietnam problem. The basis of my approach is that there can be no military solution in Vietnam. There is no alternative to seeking a peaceful solution in order to avoid a disastrous war with the danger of massive escalation. A peaceful solution can be reached only at a conference table and hence the necessity for the co-Chairman to convene a Geneva-type conference to which we attach the greatest importance. It would be unrealistic to expect a conference until the bombing of North Vietnam is stopped. India has always been against such bombing. Once a Geneva-type conference is called, we anticipate that it might take considerable time to achieve final results. Therefore, it was suggested that during this interim period, the International Control Commission strengthened if necessary should assure the observance of any standstill arrangements which might be agreed upon. The objective of the conference should be to find a solution within the framework of the Geneva Agreements of 1954. The Vietnamese people should be able to decide their future in accordance with their own wishes without pressure or interference from any quarter.

These ideas are not new; we have expressed them from time to time. I was and continue to be deeply concerned by the human suffering and the danger of escalation of this conflict into a wider war with disastrous consequences not only for Asia but for the world. Already the escalation has led to a revival of cold war postures

[Shrimati Indira Gandhi]

and a sharpening of confrontation. This is what prompted my suggestions. I felt that at this juncture it was incumbent on us, as an Asian country deeply interested in peace, to draw the Vietnam problem away from the battlefield to the conference table.

This question naturally figured in our talks in Cairo and Brioni. There was closeness of views between our Government and the Governments of the U.A.R. and Yugoslavia.

In Moscow also we exchanged views on Vietnam. The Joint Communiqué refers to our basic points of agreement.

So far as our own suggestions are concerned we stand by them. We are convinced that there is no alternative to a peaceful settlement reached at a conference table. Our proposals contain a reasonable basis for starting the process of negotiations. We are pursuing our efforts.

In our talks in Moscow, we touched upon Indo-Soviet economic co-operation. The Soviet leaders showed their usual sympathy and understanding for our economic problems and of the efforts made by us for economic development. My colleagues, the Planning Minister, the Food and Agriculture Minister and the Commerce Minister, who had preceded me, had finalised agreements on various matters. Since Chairman Kosygin was away in Bucharest during their visits and returned to Moscow a couple of days before my own arrival, confirmation of these agreements was conveyed to me. The Soviet Government announced a total credit of 970 million roubles, about Rs. 830 crores, in state and commercial credits during our Fourth Five Year Plan. This aid is mainly for more industries in the public sector. I should like to take this opportunity of expressing our sincere gratitude to the Government and the people of the Soviet Union for their response to our requirements of finan-

cial credits and technical assistance in various projects during our Fourth Five Year Plan.

I emphasised that India was determined to achieve a self-generating economy in the next decade and to build a. (*Interruptions*).....

An hon. Member: On the edifice of devaluation.

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Mandsaur): It will take two decades.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: ...socialist order in keeping with the needs and aspirations of our people.

Both sides regard the Indo-Soviet friendship as aimed against none, as a friendship that does not prevent either the Soviet Union or India from making friends with other countries.

In all the three countries we were received with great cordiality and with the warmth and friendship which characterise our relations. I should like once again to express my sincere thanks to the Governments and peoples of the U.A.R., Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union. I am confident that my visit and the personal contacts between us and the leaders of the three countries have contributed to increased understanding and have strengthened the ever-growing bonds of friendship between our countries and peoples.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I place on the Table of the House the following documents:

- (1) The Joint Indo-Soviet communiqué of July 16, 1966.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6432/66].
- (2) The Joint Press statement issued in Cairo on July 10, 1965.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6433/66].

- (3) The Joint Press statement issued in Brioni on July 12, 1966. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-6434/66].

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): In the morning when I put a supplementary question the hon. Prime Minister said that she was making a statement. I wanted to seek a clarification and you almost agreed to it.

Mr. Speaker: I will allow a few questions by way of elucidation. But there should be only one from each Party.

Shri Hem Barua: May I put the question

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Shri Hem Barua: In the light of what the hon. Prime Minister said on the previous occasion about Soviet Russia sending an emissary to Pakistan to ascertain about the violations of the Tashkent agreement by Pakistan—on that occasion it was said in newspapers that Pakistan had refused to accept an emissary from the Soviet Union and then the Prime Minister also made a statement correcting her previous statement on the Floor of this House—may I know whether our Prime Minister had any discussion with the Russian leaders during her visit to Moscow this time about Russia's sending an emissary to Pakistan—if she wanted to send why was it that Pakistan did not want to accept the emissary and other relevant facts—and if it was discussed, what were their reactions, outcome and all that?

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: The question of sending a special emissary was not discussed. But, as the hon. Member is surely aware, a parliamentary delegation had recently gone to Pakistan, and it obviously had discussions on these and other matters....

Shri Hem Barua: They did not discuss. I am interested in only one thing. I am interested in ascertaining from Pakistan about the violations of

the Tashkent Agreement. This morning also, I had raised the question about the violation of the Tashkent Agreement by Pakistan on the authority of the statement made by the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. I am just interested in knowing whether these things were ascertained from Pakistan by Russian leaders or not. There was a parliamentary delegation, no doubt, but the parliamentary delegation was not entrusted with this responsibility of enquiring.

Shri Ranga (Chittoor): When was the parliamentary delegation sent to Pakistan?

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: I just meant that they were in touch with Pakistan as they were with us. We have put our point of view regarding these violations as well as what we consider the non-implementation of the Tashkent Declaration....

Shri Hem Barua: Let her say 'violation' instead of 'non-implementation'.

Mr. Speaker: She has said 'violation' also.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: Naturally, they are interested in the implementation of the Declaration and in trying to do whatever will make for greater friendship between the two countries.

Therefore, it is not right for them or for us to say something which will spoil the chances of their doing anything in this direction. But our own viewpoint and all the information we have in this regard has certainly been placed before them.

Shri Ranga: This is the first time that we hear of a parliamentary delegation having gone to Pakistan. Did you ever send any parliamentary delegation, and if so, when?

Mr. Speaker: It was the Russian parliamentary delegation.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: Soviet Parliamentary Delegation.

Shri Hem Barua: You, Sir, had also gone to Soviet Russia.

Shri Priya Gupta (Katihar): Is there any parliament there?

श्री रामसेवक यादव (बाराबंकी)

अपने लम्बे बयान में प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि वह गई थीं महज हिन्दुस्तान की आर्थिक स्थिति को सुधारने के लिये। तो क्या इस चीज की भी वहां कोई सफाई दी गई थी कि हिन्दुस्तान की आर्थिक स्थिति को सुधारने के लिये वह सरकार क्या करने जा रही है, और साथ ही क्या प्रधान मंत्री के रूप जाने पर कुछ ज्यादा कर्ज मिलने की सम्भावना बढ़ गई है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय: वह तो उन्होंने कहा। जितना कर्ज मिला है वह उन्होंने बतला दिया, ज्यादा कैसे कहा जाये।

एक माननीय सदस्य शायद दूसरे मिनिस्ट्रों को कम मिल रही थी, उनके जाने से सम्भावना ज्यादा की हो गई है।

श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी: मैं पहले भी इस मद में कह चुकी हूँ कि मैं मद मांगने कहीं नहीं जाती हूँ।

Dr. L. M. Singhvi (Jodhpur): I would like the hon. Prime Minister to tell us firstly whether the question of devaluation was discussed specifically with the Soviet authorities, and if so, what their reaction was, and secondly whether the question of setting up any joint consultative machinery or any other machinery for ascertaining violations of the Tashkent Pact and for ensuring its observance was made or explored with any of the three countries which she visited.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: The economic policies that we follow or what we do in our own country is our own business. I did not go there to discuss internal matters of the country. We did discuss international question and other questions which were of mutual interest. There was no such arrangement made as the hon. Member has

mentioned. But all the countries were very anxious to help in any way they could, and they have said that if they think of anything, they will let us know, and if we think of anything which might help, we shall let them know, but no such machinery was set up.

श्री यशपाल सिंह (कैराना): क्या तीनों देशों में से किसी एक देश ने भी यह कहा है कि वह चीन के मुकाबले हमारा साथ देगा या प्रधान मंत्री जी वहां सिर्फ वियत नाम की चर्चा कर के ही रह गई हैं। क्या चाइना के मुकाबले में वह हमारा साथ देंगे यह सिर्फ बातें बातें ही हैं।

श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी: चीन के बारे में चर्चा तो सभी देशों में हुई, और यह सभी लोग अच्छी तरह से जानते हैं कि चीन का कितना खतरा है। लेकिन खास तौर से यह बात कि हमें कहीं से क्या मद मिलेगी, इस पर कोई विशेष चर्चा नहीं हुई।

Shri U. M. Trivedi: When she was reading out the statement, the Prime Minister stated that she had talks with the Presidents of UAR and Yugoslavia and with the Soviet Premier. It has come out in the American Press that there are differences between Jordan and Syria on the one hand and Egypt on the other. There is one Mr. Shakey, who is raising an army in Syria to fight and destroy Israel. They have taken a vow to destroy Israel. It has also come out in the press that India, unwittingly or otherwise, has made statements that she is also going to help in the liquidation of Israel. Is there any truth in such a statement? That is number one.

Mr. Speaker: Not more than one question.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: The question is, have we in any manner committed ourselves to this statement, that we are agreeable to the liquidation of Israel? Secondly, was there any talk with the Soviet Premier about th

supply of military aid to Pakistan during the last four months?

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: As regards the last part of the question, I have already answered it in my statement itself, that they have not given any arms and no such agreement was made.

With regard to Israel, it did not crop up at all in our conversation. I am not aware of any statement which the hon. Member has attributed to us.

श्री ज० ब० सिंह (घोसी) : आपने वहाँ डिवैल्युएशन के बारे में कोई बात नहीं की क्या उनकी तरफ से डिवैल्युएशन के बारे में आप से किसी लेवल पर कुछ बात हुई? आपके और लोग भी गए थे। क्या उन से या किसी और लेवल पर उन्होंने कुछ बात की?

श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी : जी, नहीं।

Shri Umanath (Pudukkottai): In the joint communique signed by our Government and the Soviet Government there is reference to threat to peace from imperialist forces. As soon as our Prime Minister came back to our country, she said that this particular word "imperialist" did not refer to the USA Government. If so, may I know which is the particular Government that is referred to, or which are the particular forces that are referred to? Forces or Governments cannot exist in the air. So, we want to know with what understanding the Prime Minister signed that communique stating that imperialist forces were threatening peace.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: This expression has often been used in international parlance as well as in the United Nations. It is a general statement about certain forces. It did not specifically apply to any specific country as such.

Shri Umanath: Where do they exist?

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: They exist everywhere, in many countries; they exist in China, they exist in the old

colonial countries and many others.

Shri Umanath: Do they exist in the Soviet Union also?

Shri U. M. Trivedi: You are talking of South Vietnam. Twenty million people were killed by China, we never opened our eyes.

16.32 hrs.

MOTION RE. PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

Mr. Speaker: Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri.

Shri Nambiar (Tiruchirapalli): I want to have a clarification.

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri) rose—

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (देवास) : यह प्रस्ताव नहीं रखा जा सकता है। अविश्वास के प्रस्ताव पर पहले बहस होनी चाहिये। यह नहीं लिया जाना चाहिये (इंटरप्शन)।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : एक आदमी कोई बात कहे तो मैं सुन भी सकता हूँ। इस तरह से मैं कैसे सुन सकता हूँ।

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Barackpore): We will not allow Mr. Sachindra Chaudhuri to get away with it.

Dr. Ranen Sen (Calcutta East): Why is he standing? You are not allowing him.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: From the morning, the Government benches have been preaching to us about parliamentary practice. The Prime Minister has issued a statement in America saying that there are some people here who want to subvert parliamentary democracy. Again we ask you. Please do not allow this Finance Minister, who has behind the back of this Parliament brought about devaluation