

calling for statements, in response to which statements have been filed by all parties except Shri Arun Roy Chodhury who has been allowed by the Commission further time. M/S Snam of Italy and M/S Bechtels of U. S. A. have also filed statements before the Commission. The Commission is now considering as to the persons to whom notices should issue under Section 8 B of the Commissions of Inquiry Act 1952 as amended by Act 79 of 1971, i. e. persons whose reputation is likely to be prejudicially affected by the enquiry. Time for Commission to submit its report has now been extended to the 31st August 1972.

12.02 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED ANTI-INDIA RALLY IN SAIGON

SHRI R. K. SINHA (Faizabad) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

"The reported anti-India rally in Saigon protesting against India's Chairmanship of the International Control Commission."

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : Consequent on the upgradation of our mission in Hanoi to Embassy level on January 7, 1972, on a reciprocal basis, a number of hostile demonstrations in front of the ICSC Headquarters and our Consulate-General in Saigon have taken place.

Two demonstrations had earlier taken place in front of the ICSC Headquarters on the 11th January, 1972, and 23rd February, 1972. The latest incident took place on the morning of March 14, 1972, when South Vietnamese local employees of the ICSC

struck work and displayed slogans on the walls of the Indian Delegation building demanding immediate replacement of Indian Delegation on the ICSC.

As repeatedly pointed out earlier, India's decision to raise the level of its mission in Hanoi was not in any way directed against South Vietnam. It was a recognition of the realities of the situation and in exercise of our sovereign rights. The ICSC in Vietnam is an international body created by the nations participating in the Geneva Conference of 1954 and any attempt by any one of the parties to unilaterally alter its composition or prevent its functioning is totally unwarranted.

The Government of India would still hope that wiser counsels will prevail and the South Vietnamese Government would take effective steps to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

SHRI R. K. SINHA : Is the hon. Minister aware that Indian flags were burnt, the shops and property of people who had Indian citizenship was destroyed and some people were injured ? In view of this, will he inform the House whether this was officially inspired or done by a non-official agency ? This country is a client State of the imperialist foreign powers and this is probably being done because of the defeat of the American imperialism in the Indian sub-continent during the last conflict in December. Is it because of that ? Is it because of the fact that today the CIA comes out with publicity that Hindus are ruling Bangla Desh ? Is it because of the fact that imperialism has been defeated in the Indian sub-continent ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : It is true that during the earlier two demonstrations, which took place outside our Consulate General, some ugly incidents did take place; for instance, our National Flag was torn and even the effigy of our Prime Minister was burnt outside our Consulate General apart from shouting anti-India slogans.

SOME HON. MEMBER : Shame, shame !

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Soon after these incidents, we took up the matter with the South Vietnamese authorities and we told them how unhappy we were and how strongly we felt about it all. A little time after that, they expressed their regrets, apologised for the incident and assured us that in future such things would not take place.

As to who was at the back of it all and who instigated all these demonstrations, it is very difficult for us to say. The Government or South Vietnam have told us officially that they were not at the back of it. They tried to prevent all these demonstrations but in view of the strong feelings in that country and the large numbers of people involved, their police authorities were not able to control it.

SHRI R. K. SINHA : I would like to ask the Minister whether he would examine ... (Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : That is enough. Dr. Karni Singh.

DR. KARNI SINGH (Bikaner) : The hon. Minister just now mentioned that the upgrading of our embassy in Hanoi was in the exercise of our sovereign rights which, of course, nobody can dispute. But, as the hon. Minister knows, there are certain parts of the world where the situation is delicate, like in Korea, Vietnam and Germany. In each of these places a country like India will have to exercise its prudence and judgment to see that we do not alienate our friends both in the Communist and the non-Communist blocs. Even a country like the United States has learnt to live with China. I feel that in our foreign policy India will also have to learn to live with the Communist and the non-Communist blocs. Therefore, I would like to know whether Government has any proposals to avoid in future such complications and anger in our friendly countries in both blocs.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : It is not Government of India's policy to annoy anybody or to create enemies and annoy our friends. Each case is taken on its merits and a decision is taken by the Government of India keeping in view our

national interests and good relations all over the world. In this case the reason for taking this decision was that we felt that we must take stock of the situation as it exists on the ground and our relations which were improving. It was not because we were under the pressure of somebody. We do not listen to anybody or submit to pressure of any country. It is our sovereign right to decide about our representation in any foreign country. In this particular case we felt that in North Vietnam there was one government, there was no dispute of any kind whatsoever and our relations were improving. Therefore, we thought it fit and proper that we should raise the level of our representation in Hanoi.

SHRI FATESINGHRAO GAEKWAD (Baroda) : In view of the fact that these hostile demonstrations have become a regular feature—in fact, almost a regular monthly feature—I would like to know (a) whether these demonstrations have only been directed against the ICSC and our Consulate General or have they been directed against Indian residents and their properties; (b) whether any damage was done to our Consulate General and, if so, to what extent; and (c) what concrete steps are proposed to be taken to ensure the safety both of lives and of properties of Indians there and has the South Vietnamese Government given any guarantee or assurance in this respect?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Of the first two demonstrations, one took place outside the Consulate General and the other outside the headquarters of the ICSC. During these demonstrations, as I have said earlier on, it has been reported, some Indian nationals in Saigon were also involved. Some shops were looted and some damage was done to their property etc. But the subsequent demonstration, which took place outside the headquarters of the ICSC in March, was not a violent demonstration; it was a peaceful demonstration and only the local employees of the ICSC struck work. They shouted a few slogans and, I think, after a day or two they came back to work.

As regards the assurance of the South Vietnamese Government, I have already said that they have assured us that the life and

[Shri Surendra Pal Singh]

property of all Indian nationals in South Vietnam will be given full protection.

SHRI N. K. SANGHI (Jalore) : India has been one of the champions of peace-keeping operations, whether it be Korea or West Asia or Congo. The outrageous demonstrations that have been taking place in South Vietnam cannot be overlooked. Even during Chinese aggression and Pakistani aggression, there have been such demonstrations against Embassies in India also and the Government had taken proper care to see that their National Flag and their National Emblem were not defiled. In South Vietnam, we have seen such outrageous behaviour against our National Flag which no self respecting country, democratic country, would like to tolerate.

The hon. Minister has said that this has been due to the upgrading of the Hanoi Embassy by the Indian Government. From these demonstrations, one thing is very clear that the South Vietnamese Government does not want India to be the Chairman of the International Control Commission. In view of this background, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the South Vietnamese Government has taken up the question of the Chairmanship of India of the International Control Commission with the Geneva Conference countries who alone can make any change in the set-up. Has the South Vietnamese Government taken up the matter with the 14-nation Geneva Conference and, if so, what is your attitude to it?

In view of the present circumstances, would you not consider to remove the present headquarters of the Commission to some other country, say, North Vietnam, Cambodia or some other place, where the International Control Commission can operate better?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : It is a fact that this demonstration took place because India raised the level of her Mission in Hanoi. It was an expression of disappointment against India. That is why these things were staged. As regards the respect

to be shown to our National Flag, it is their responsibility to see to it. They should protect our property, our members of the diplomatic corp and also our National Flag. The fact that they were not able to do it was pointed out to the South Vietnamese Government very strongly and as I said, they expressed regret and apologised for the incident and they also assured us that such incidents will not occur again. It is a fact that in the subsequent demonstration, there was no violence involved.

As regards the position of India on the International Control Commission, it is true that the Saigon Government has told us that as we have taken the decision to raise the level of our Mission in Hanoi, we have lost our neutrality, and impartiality, etc. which is required for the Chairmanship of the Commission. Our view is that this is purely a bilateral matter and that, as far as our position on the International Control Commission is concerned, that has not changed. We continue to be objective and impartial in all matters referred to the Commission. It is not upto the South Vietnamese Government or any Government to make any suggestion as to what should be the composition of the Commission. This Commission is a creation of the Geneva Conference, an international body, and any decision or any question of change can only be taken up by another Conference of this type and, not by any one country, unilaterally.

SHRI P. GANGADEB (Angul) : The External Affairs Minister said yesterday in the Rajya Sabha that when India protested to the South Vietnamese Government against anti-India demonstration, they gave an assurance that in future such things will not take place. On the other hand their attitude seems to be quite contrary. May I therefore, draw the attention of the hon. Minister as to what the South Vietnamese Government, rather their Foreign Minister, has indicated? He has said that the Saigon Government will not accept or recognise India's role as the Chairman of the International Control Commission and that they will refuse to allow the head of the Indian Delegation,

Mr. L. N. Ray, to enter Saigon. That is one thing. Secondly, he says that they will stop renewal of resident permits to 30 members of the Indian Delegation after the expiry of those permits. Further, we find that one of the Cabinet Ministers of the South Vietnamese Government has demanded the expulsion of all Indians from Saigon. 100 Vietnamese employees of the Indian Delegation have already left their jobs, if I am right.

In view of these facts and the circumstances that I have stated, may I know from the hon. Minister whether our Government have discussed this unwarranted situation, as was said by the hon. Minister, with the co-members of the Commission and if so, what has been the outcome of this discussion, and secondly, what steps have been taken for the protection of the Indian citizens in Saigon? Lastly, how far does the Government feel confident to discharge international obligations and the responsibilities under the Geneva Agreement?

SHRI SURENDRA PAI, SINGH : The hon. Member has spoken about there being a contradiction in my statement made in the other House yesterday. I do not see any contradiction anywhere whatsoever. I have said that we had been assured by the South Vietnamese Government that, in future, such incidents would not take place—I mean, violent incidents. As far as the fulfilment of that assurance is concerned, I think, they have fulfilled it because in the subsequent demonstration that took place in March, there was no violence, though the demonstrations were not to our liking and they were unjustified.

As regards our position on the International Control Commission, our position remains the same. We do feel that this action in raising our representation in Hanoi to the Embassy level does not affect our position in the International Control Commission. We can function there, and have been functioning there, impartially and with objectivity; and we propose to continue that position in future also.

We have consulted the other Members of the Commission; a meeting has already taken

place and there was a unanimous opinion in the Commission itself that perhaps, for the time being, we should not take any action, we should lie low, until the present passions die out and things become a little calm, and if later on we find that the South Vietnamese create conditions which make it difficult for the Commission to function properly, we may have to bring this matter to the notice of the Co-Chairmen.

12.18 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

REPORT OF BANKING COMMISSION

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE
(SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : I beg to lay on the Table :—

- (1) A copy of the Report of the Banking Commission.
- (2) A statement explaining the reasons for not laying the Hindi version of the above Report simultaneously.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1433/72.]

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER NAVY ACT, AND TERRITORIAL ARMY ACT

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE
(SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : I beg to lay on the Table :—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 185 of the Navy Act, 1957 :—
 - (i) The Naval Ceremonial, Conditions of Service and Miscellaneous (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 1971, published in Notification No. S. R. O. 464 in Gazette of India dated the 25th December, 1971.
 - (ii) The Naval Ceremonial, Conditions of Service and Miscellaneous