

[Shri Raghunath Ramalingam]

in Notification No. G.S.R. 535 in Gazette of India dated the 13th April, 1967. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-367/67].

REPORT OF PERMANENT INDUS COMMISSION

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Iqbal Singh): On behalf of Dr. K. L. Rao, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report of the Permanent Indus Commission for the year ended on 31st March, 1967. [Placed in Library, see No. LT-368/67].

ACCOUNTS OF THE ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

Shri Iqbal Singh: On behalf of Shri B. S. Murthy,

I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual statement of Accounts of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 1965-66, together with the Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of section 18 of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-369/67].

14.04 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: SITUATION IN WEST ASIA

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): I do not know whether the House would like me to read the statement.

Some hon. Members: Yes, We have not got copies.

Shri M. L. Somaiya (New Delhi): It will take much time. We can ask questions.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is only three pages, I am told. Let him read it.

Shri M. C. Chagla: The creation of Israel has given rise to tension between Israel and the Arab countries. From time to time, the tension has erupted into incidents of varying degrees of seriousness. After the aggression on the U.A.R. in 1966, a United Nations

Emergency Force (UNEF) was set up to secure and supervise the cessation of hostilities between Egypt and Israel. The UNEF had contingents supplied by Brazil, Canada, Denmark, India, Norway, Sweden and Yugoslavia. Israel has all along refused to let the UNEF be stationed on or enter the Israeli side of the border. UNEF, therefore, operated only from the U.A.R. side with the consent of the U.A.R. Government.

In recent weeks serious tension has developed between Syria and Israel. The Israeli Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Chief of Army Staff were quoted as saying that they would teach Syria a severe lesson and even march upto Damascus. At the same time, there were reports of Israeli troop concentrations near the Syrian border. The Syrians, apprehending an imminent attack from Israel, held urgent consultations with the United Arab Republic under the U.A.R.-Syrian Mutual Defence Agreement signed in November, 1966.

On May 18, a letter was received by U Thant from the U.A.R. Foreign Minister asking for the removal of UNEF entirely from U.A.R. territory and the Gaza strip. After again having consultations with the U.N. Advisory Committee on UNEF, the Secretary-General decided to terminate UNEF's presence as requested by the U.A.R.

The Government of India have always supported the UNEF's activities and believe that its presence on the Israeli-U.A.R. border has helped in maintaining peace in the area. We would however, like to state clearly that we appreciate the reasons which have impelled the U.A.R. to ask for the withdrawal of UNEF. When the UNEF was stationed in the U.A.R., it was with the consent of the U.A.R. Government and the UNEF could not continue to remain in U.A.R. territory without that Government's continuing consent. India could not be a party to any procedure which would make UNEF into an occupying force; not