

areas, it is a question of the existence, safety and security of those areas, the whole of Asia, India being a part of it, and the whole of South-East Asia.

Let us not continue as we have been doing so long, looking to Washington, London and Moscow for getting inspiration. Let us at least turn our attention to these countries which are not only neighbour countries but whose interests are inter-linked with our interests just like the interests between State and State in one country. That being the position India has to change its policy. If the Government is worth anything it must declare here and now that our policy is not only chanting of mantrams of non-alignment but our policy is mainly guided by the enlightened national interests of this country. We will judge every matter, every international situation from that point of view. A strong nation a brave nation, a courageous nation alone can play some part in world policies; no other nation can. If you go on surrendering even your principles—you have surrendered them several times—no nation will care for you.

Therefore, India must take these and similar developments into account. She must accept that not only is the bi-polar world dead as dodo but also the growing detente between the super powers is no guarantee for stability of the *status quo* and peace. The old equation of double alignment with super powers cannot be the policy of today. Let us realise this. We must cultivate Western Europe and Japan on the one hand and lessen our dependence on the Super Powers on the other.

Secondly, we must take into account the change in South East Asian scene. The possibility of (a) China's admission formally into the nuclear club or her getting a semi-super power status or (b) a US-China detente must not be overlooked. Our response will have to be to strengthen ourselves and to forge closer defence links with our South Eastern neighbours. The Foreign Minister of Indonesia, Mr. Malik has made a categorical suggestion about it. I want to know the reaction of the Government of India to that suggestion. Mr. Malik has already pleaded for such

relationship with India, Burma, Ceylon and other neighbours. The attitude of the Burmese Government, I am sure, is helpful to India. Nepal also whatever may be its anti-Indian attitude, I have no doubt in my mind that if it takes into account the realities of the situation, it will fall in line.

In conclusion I will make this appeal. Let us not think that because Pandit Nehru some years back had coined something, if we just change a little, or if we change the entire policy, because of the exigencies of the situation, we will be called deviationists. Why should we do not deviate is the problem. It is also essential to realise that with the new flux in the world events, our hangovers of the past and our inhibitions must not be allowed to blinker our vision.

In the end, it is necessary to emphasise that in the multi-polar world, dependence of our country on one or a set of powers can only endanger our security, particularly when equations and permutations on the international plane are changing fast. We have to look all around us, create a flexible approach to safeguard our interest and build our own strength. With the neighbours in particular we must evolve viable relationships and forge friendships on the basis of an evolving community of national interests.

16.48 hrs.

STATEMENT RE STRIKE BY HOUSE
SURGEONS AND OTHER DOCTORS
OF THE IRWIN HOSPITAL,
NEW DELHI

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI K. K. SHAH) : At 7.45 P.M. on the 2nd April 1969, a group of junior medical officers of the Irwin and G. B. Pant Hospitals called at the residence of the Medical Superintendent and presented a memorandum which incorporated a resolution said to have been passed by the Doctor's Union at 5 P.M. on the same day. It was alleged in the resolution that Dr. B. N. Mishra and Dr. D. P. Bhatnagar had been forced to tender their resignations. It also referred to what it

[Shri K. K. Shah]

described as the constant harassment of the doctors of the Hospital. The resolution stated that the Doctors' Union would resort to a complete strike in all the departments from midnight till the doctors were reinstated. The other demands are reproduced below :

- “(1) Provision of an unqualified apology from the authorities concerned for their consistent high handedness and grossly unjust and shameful conduct in pressurizing these house surgeons to resign ;
- (2) Guarantee of sufficient, tangible and realistic measures to be taken in the future, for complete security and protection of all the Medical Officers on duty, from any political or bureaucratic dignitaries during the discharge of their duties ;
- (3) Removal of the clause in the appointment of Medical officers of all categories stating that their services can be terminated without explanation or notice.”

The aforesaid resolution was accompanied by another document which referred to the assault on the nursing staff by the relations of a patient who had been brought to the hospital with severe burns and expired on the morning of 1st April 1969. In this document a demand was made for immediate action against the offenders and provision of security arrangements in the Hospital,

Since midnight, the House Surgeons, Registrars, Interns and Post Graduates have not reported for duty. Nurses have also abstained from work. Efforts are being made to maintain the services in the Irwin and G. B. Pant Hospitals.

It is learnt from the Delhi Administration that Drs. B. N. Mishra and D. P. Bhatnagar submitted their resignations voluntarily on the 1st April 1969 and 31st March 1969, respectively. Of these Dr. Mishra had figured in an incident on the night of 31st December 1968, when an Executive Councillor had taken a relation

of his for treatment at the Irwin Hospital after giving information in advance to Dr. Mishra. As regards Dr. Bhatnagar, his conduct had been adversely commented on by the Commission of Inquiry which inquired into cases of suicides of nursing students in the Irwin Hospital last year.

The Police authorities have so far arrested four persons alleged to be involved in the assault on nurses on the morning of 1st April, 1969. Security arrangements have been made at the Hospital.

SHRI NATH PAI (Rajapur) : What about the incident which resulted in the resignation or the forced resignation of Dr. Mishra ?

MR. SPEAKER : We will take up the non-official business now.

SHRI NATH PAI : Let him reply to that, What is the use of our being subjected to a one-sided version ?

MR. SPEAKER : You can have a discussion on some other day. If you begin it, the whole of non-official business will go.

SHRI NATH PAI : 400 doctors are on strike.

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot limit it to one or two members.

SHRI NATH PAI : He was about to answer it.

MR. SPEAKER : The moment questions begin, the non-official business will go. I cannot confine it only to Shri Nath Pai and Shri Banerjee.

SHRI NATH PAI : The question was finished already. Let him answer whether it was the refusal of Dr. Mishra to attend to the wife of a dignitary.....(*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER : You are seeing that so many of them are standing. It is impossible for me to allow so many questions. Please do not put me in an embarrassing position.

— — — —