

17.44 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. U.S. BOMBING IN VIETNAM

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH):
The Foreign Minister had already
made a statement on the subject of
Vietnam on the 19th instant. We had
then expressed distress at the resump-
tion of bombing raids and acts of war
in Vietnam and conveyed our grave
concern at the tragic turn of events.

Since then many countries of the
world have raised their voice against
these bombing raids which are
evidently not confined only to mili-
tary targets as claimed. According
to reports several Embassy premises
situated in the heart of Hanoi have
been damaged or destroyed. I regret
to have to inform the House that we
have just received information from
our Ambassador in Hanoi that in
yesterday's raid, our Chancery build-
ings and staff quarters were damaged,
though happily all our officers and
staff are reported to be safe.

We cannot but raise our voice in
protest at such indiscriminate bomb-
ings particularly of civilian areas and
even diplomatic quarters. We had
protested to the U.S. Government on
the last occasion on 12th October and
then the U.S. officials had expressed
their regret and described the raids
as 'unfortunate' and unintentional.
Now we again witness repetition of
the same indiscriminate bombing.
Such ruthless bombings involving
civilian life and property on a large-
scale are a matter of the gravest con-
cern to us. The Government of India
would like to record its strongest
protest at this bombing of our diplo-
matic premises in Hanoi.

Words fail to describe the appalling
tragedy which is being re-enacted in
Vietnam. Over the last one year, as
the Honourable Members are aware,
Government of India, have raised

their voice on many occasions in con-
demnation of acts of large-scale war
against a tiny country and its heroic
people. However, these words have
had little effect and in disregard of
the feelings not only of this Govern-
ment but of all the peace loving peo-
ple of the world, more massive bomb-
ings are being resorted to.

It appears to us that all the lessons
of history, recent and remote, have
gone unheeded. As recently as last
year, brutal force was used in Bangla-
desh to suppress the will of the peo-
ple but it did not succeed. It has
been clear to us from the beginning
that the Vietnam problem cannot be
solved through military means. We
are convinced that no amount of mili-
tary pressure will deter or deflect the
heroic people of Vietnam. In fact, if
anything, it would only redouble their
determination to fight the war till
the bitter end and they would have
the sympathies of the whole world.

Even in this tragic hour, we earn-
estly hope that wiser counsels will
prevail and that instead of resorting
to brutal force, negotiations would be
immediately to find a settlement
which meets with the wishes of the
brave people of Vietnam.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर) :
अध्यक्ष महोदय, हम लोगों ने कहा था कि
पाकिस्तान के साथ सीमा के सम्बन्ध में जो
समझौता हुआ है, उस के बारे में रक्षा मंत्री
वक्तव्य दें, मगर कोई वक्तव्य नहीं आया है।
यह वक्तव्य कब दिया जायेगा ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वह तो आज नहीं
आना था। एक्सटर्नल एफ़ेयर्स मिनिस्टर
के स्टेटमेंट के बारे में कहा था।

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai):
Sir, they have expressed their con-
demnation about the developments in
Vietnam and also their concern about
Uganda.

[Shri Samar Guha.]

But about the secession or accession of territory no information has been given.

MR. SPEAKER: That is not the question that was taken up. Only the External Affairs Minister was asked.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Sir, to-day is the last day of the session. We are not going to meet for two months now. Whether there will be any secession or accession of territory—that the House is entitled to know and this information the Government is not giving.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think he was asked to make a statement about it today.... (Interruptions) This is not a subject on which he can reply offhand. We did not ask him.

श्री हुक्म चन्द कठवाय (मुरैना)
विधतनाम पर बमबारी का बक्तव्य जरूरी
था और यह जो भारत की भूमि दे दी गई हम
पर बक्तव्य जरूरी नहीं था ?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I only want to submit to you that any accession or secession of land to Pakistan this House is entitled to know. Today being the last day, we would like to have this information.

MR. SPEAKER: We will see in the next session.

17.50 hrs.

NATIONAL LIBRARY BILL—Contd.

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION,
SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE
(PROF. S. NURUL HASAN): I beg
to move:

"That the debate on the motion
'that the Bill to provide for the
administration of the National
Library and certain other con-
nected matters, be taken into

consideration' which was adjourn-
ed on the 20th December, 1972,
be resumed now."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the debate on the motion
'that the Bill to provide for the
administration of the National
Library and certain other con-
nected matters, be taken into
consideration' which was adjourn-
ed on the 20th December, 1972
be resumed now."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I will put
Mr. Hiren Mukerjee's motion:

The question is:

"That the Bill be circulated for
the purpose of eliciting opinion
thereon by the 31st March, 1973."

The motion was negatived.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: I beg
to move:

"That the Bill to provide for
the administration of the National
Library and certain other con-
nected matters, be referred to a
Joint Committee of the Houses
consisting of 45 members, 30 from
this House, namely:—

- (1) Shri Achal Singh
- (2) Shri Dharamrao Sharanappa
Afzalpurkar
- (3) Shri Virendra Agarwal
- (4) Shri Shrikrishna Agrawal
- (5) Shri Anand Singh
- (6) Shri Panna Lal Barupal
- (7) Shri S. C. Besra
- (8) Shri Biren Engti
- (9) Shri R. R. Singh Deo
- (10) Shri K. Gopal