

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

is a different matter,—but it may well lead, as it is indeed partly leading now, to very big conflicts, civil wars and disasters.

As I said, the matter is being considered in the UN Security Council even now, and I do not wish, and I do not think even the House can wish, to make detailed suggestions in a very complicated situation. But of one thing I am absolutely clear, that the Parliament of the Congo must meet, and every member of it, to whatever party he belongs, should be allowed to come there. Let them have it out. Let them be advised by the UN people, let them be advised by others. Let them make mistakes, but you cannot leave the position as it is. The UN should continue to function there, because I think it will be very dangerous for the UN to withdraw. It is an easy thing to withdraw, it is an easy thing for me to say we will withdraw our men, that is, we will not suffer indignity thereby, but if the UN withdraws, it means the Congo going up in the flames of civil war and intervention. There is no doubt that great powers will intervene; and if a great power intervenes, the other opposing great power will intervene too, and all these dangers will come. It will affect not only the Congo but the whole of Africa will be in flames.

There is no hope of settling this issue except through the United Nations, but the United Nations itself can only function with dignity and authority and not merely without the authority or the power to do anything and merely looking on. So far as we are concerned, we have given much thought to the question whether we should continue there or not, but feeling strongly that we should not take any step which weakens, in the whole context, the UN working there, we have, for the present, decided to remain there. We thought it would be not, in this larger context, a right thing to withdraw, but it is obvious that the attitude we may adopt in

future will depend very much on a developing situation and how Indian nationals are treated there. If they are not treated properly, then we will have to reconsider our decisions.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: The Prime Minister has made a very lengthy statement giving details about the present position and what he thinks can be done. He thinks that one-sidedly we ought not to withdraw. Let us wait and see. He is also anxious to see that the safety of our nationals there is not jeopardised. In view of this, I am not prepared to allow any questions now.

Shri Mahanty rose—

Mr. Speaker: I am exceedingly sorry.

Shri Mahanty (Dhenkanal). All informations have been given except the relevant ones.

Mr. Speaker: Let the hon. Member wait. This is a continuing affair. So long as our contingent is there, troops or others, I will allow every opportunity the moment we find that it is somewhat dangerous or it is no longer useful. This is not the last word now. That is the present situation.

Shri Hem Barua: May I put a question?

Mr. Speaker: No, I am sorry.

12:50 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: DACOITY AT
BHAIRABPUR IN SILCHAR

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I have now received further information about the incident that occurred in the village of Bhairabpur on Silchar-East Pakistan border on the night of the 28th November. On that night, at about 2.30 hours, about 16 dacoits armed with guns and other weapons committed a dacoity in the

house of one Shyamcharan Nath, Post-master of the Branch Post Office of village Bhairabpur in Silchar subdivision, about 4 miles from the Indo-Pakistan border. The dacoits looted two gold chains and three rings from the inmates of the House. They also fired some shots causing injuries to four persons, Shrimati Suniti Baradevi succumbed to the injuries in the Silchar Hospital on November, 29th. The dacoits also ransacked the local post office at Bhairabpur which happens to be located in the residence of Shri Shyamcharan Nath, but it is not yet known whether any cash was looted from the post office. The Assam Government have reported that they suspect that criminals from Pakistan in collusion with local criminals have committed this dacoity. All the village defence authorities functioning in the area have been alerted, and the border posts reinforced, and border patrolling intensified.

There has been no deterioration, of late, in the security of life and property in the Assam-East Pakistan border. There have been one or two cases of dacoity on the Silchar border before the present incident. The number of border incidents, however, remains negligible.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): May I just ask one question? On this particular sector of the Indo-Pakistan border, there have been incidents of this sort in series, and generally, the raiders from Pakistan always made post offices or the Central excise offices as their targets, and often, they make the families living in that sector as their targets. May I know whether this populated sector of this 620-mile long Indo-Pakistan border in the east, has got security in regard to life and property, because security forces which were there were withdrawn during the Assam disturbances to the Brahmaputra Valley? May I know whether they have been reposted there? Or else, how can this incident occur in that manner?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have said, the border has been remarkably quiet. The hon. Member has got a rather lurid impression of conditions in the border. I think that is an exaggerated impression. Unfortunately, in Society, as it is organised today, dacoities do occur not only in the border but inside borders and in internal conditions of the country. Here, our information is that it was a dacoity by Pakistanis in collusion with some Indians who joined in the dacoity.

Shri Hem Barua: Here is a pertinent question. May I know whether those Indians there in the border have been identified or not, because this has been going on for a long time, and there is collusion?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I would venture to say that it has not been going on for a long time. It is much less than what it was. Certainly, some dacoities occur, and all the normal and abnormal steps to prevent them are tried to be taken.

12-53 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

COUNCIL OF INDIAN INSTITUTE OF
SCIENCE, BANGALORE

The Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Dr. M. M. Das): I beg to move:

"That the Members of Lok Sabha do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct one Member from among themselves to serve as a Member from Council of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, with effect from the 1st January, 1961, under the provisions of clause 14(v) of the Scheme for the Administration and Management of the properties and funds of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, read with regulations 2.1 and 2.1.1 of the Regulations of the said Institute."