

actually happened there, which obviously prompted the hon. Members to bring this question here, is that Iran is negotiating with Russia for the setting up of a steel plant with Russian help and co-operation. Last year, they approached us to find out whether we would like to supply to them technicians, and managerial staff etc.; their engineers came here last year; they went round and saw our steel plants and were greatly impressed. That is where the matter rests. Once their negotiations are over, then they will contact us again.

Statement by U.S. Ambassador in India

+

- *578. **Shrimati Suseela Gopalan:**
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri K. Raman:
Shri Ram Kishan Gupta:
Shri H. N. Mukerjee:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a statement by the U.S. Ambassador in 'American Reporter' attacking some political parties in India for their criticism of U.S. Aid to India; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Surendra Pal Singh): (a) We are aware of articles published in the "American Reporter" by the U.S. Ambassador in India on various topics but no article attacking any political parties in India has come to our attention;

(b) Does not arise.

Shrimati Suseela Gopalan: May I know whether his attention has been drawn to a report published in the *American Reporter*, dated 26th April, under the heading "Ambassador's Report" which directly attacks the policies pursued by the communists in this country?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): We saw the article which was published in the *American Reporter*. The reply that the Deputy Minister has read out is the reply given after studying carefully the article as it appeared in the *American Reporter*.

Shri Ram Kishan Gupta: May I know the name of the political party mentioned in this article?

Shri Swaran Singh: The name of any political party as such is not mentioned.

Shri Umanath: Communists in India are referred to in five places.

Shri Swaran Singh: It is correct that there is mention there that the communists are criticising the food aid to India and he has given the reasons . . .

Shri Umanath: It is all a concoction of lies.

Shri Swaran Singh: It is true that communists are mentioned, but not the communist party. I am not defending it. I am just giving information.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Since we hear a great deal about ours being a democratic country with a Parliament functioning, on account of which we cannot do certain things, when this American Ambassador refers to the communists over and over again and criticises them as perverse and unpatriotic people who are acting against the interests of India and its relationship with other foreign countries, do I take it that the reference to communists is interpreted by the Ministry fat-headedly as not implying the communist movement in this country, which is represented bodily in this House?

Shri Swaran Singh: There are two communist parties in this House. In that article, there is no mention of the communist party as such. There is mention of communists having criticised the U.S. Aid. He has given his

reasons why he does not accept that criticism. I am not defending what he has done. But I am giving the information to the House. It is for the House and the country to judge as to whether this amounts to criticising a political party. Criticism has been levelled against the American Government which he represents and it is one of his duties to improve the relations between India and the USA. Also, it is not uncustomary for Ambassadors to meet certain criticism that might be put across in the country to which they are accredited, if they feel that it comes in the way of development of friendly relations between the country which they represent and the country to which they are accredited.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Do I take it that the minister implies that the Ambassador of a capitalist country or a socialist country is at liberty in this country to criticise the communists or the capitalists or whoever else it may be, openly in a periodical printed, published and largely freely distributed on a large scale in this country? Do I take it that that is the view of the Government?

Shri Swaran Singh: Our view is quite clear. So far as our political set-up is concerned, it is for each of us to criticise the other political parties in the country and no outside Ambassador, whether he is from a communist country, a socialist country, a capitalist country, a non-aligned country or an aligned country, can criticise any of the political parties in the country. But I would only humbly place before this hon. House whether in those cases where some parties, may be the Jan Sangh, the Congress Party or the Communist Party, criticise the actions of a country which that Ambassador represents or that High Commissioner represents, that foreign diplomat is entitled to meet that criticism or not and in meeting that criticism if he observes

a certain decorum and does not cross a certain limit it is for us to consider and for this Parliament to consider whether, in view of the freedom of expression that we adhere to, we should not permit people who are criticised to offer their version of the criticism that is levelled. I do not offer any comment, I do not pose that problem before this House.

Shri Bedabrata Barua: In view of what practically all the members of another Embassy, the Chinese Embassy, have done, from the throwing of stones to many other things, and their mother country has been even proposing to hack some of us to death is it not necessary to worry less about what a particular Ambassador might be writing in a foreign journal particularly when his views regarding some of the political parties in India or the Government's view is already well known.

Shri Swaran Singh: I could not follow the hon. Member's question.

An hon. Member: It is an opinion, not a question.

Shri Umanath: The hon. Minister just now said that in reply to criticisms by the political parties in our country against foreign countries whether the foreign country representatives are justified in replying to those criticisms and defending themselves is a matter for this House to judge. I would like to know what is the position of the Government. If political parties in this country do criticise foreign countries about their policies towards our country, does the Government think—I want to know your position and your reaction—that the Ambassador was correct in only replying in the journal. When in the case of North Vietnam certain booklets about American atrocities in North Vietnam were circulated here the Government took action to see that those leaflets were not circulated, may I know whether the Government approached the Ambassador to see

that that journal was not circulated here?

Shri Swaran Singh: Each case will have to be examined on its merit.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: The cat is now out of the bag. You are shamelessly defending the American Ambassador.

Shri Swaran Singh: I would not say, for instance, he is shamelessly attacking the Ambassador of another country, because we do not advance each other's view points or arguments by calling names. So it is very unfair to make an assertion of that type. I am quite all right if I tow his line, but if my view is not palatable to him and he goes to the length of using such expressions as "shameless", I strongly resent such an attitude. That really lacks objectivity and it is very unfair that such things should be uttered on the floor of the House.

I said, whenever any such statement is published by the representative of any foreign country in our country we examine it. If it is such that action is called for, we do take action. I do not want to hide this fact from this hon. House that this statement is not being examined for the first time on the floor of the House; this statement of the American Ambassador was carefully examined in the External Affairs Ministry and their view was that it is not actionable.

Shri K. Narayana Rao: The distinction drawn between political parties as such and individuals as such appears to be too tenuous and technical. I do not think the answer is satisfactory. But whatever it may be, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there would be any difference in the attitude of the Government if the reference in that article had been to the Communist Party instead of the Communists? Secondly, I would like to know whether in view of these things, there is any international convention as to what exactly is the position in regard to the freedom of

the Ambassador of any foreign country to express his views and whether in this particular case the limits of international propriety and convention have been exceeded.

Shri Swaran Singh: It is true that when a group of political viewpoint is described as such and the party is not named, the difference is tenuous. I do accept the suggestion that is implicit in the question. As to what will be our attitude if a party is named, we would not like any outside Ambassador of any country to enter into our own internal differences between various political parties. We ourselves should be able to decide and criticise according to our accepted norms, according to our Constitution, and we will not like any Ambassador of any other country to criticise, or for the matter of that, to applaud any political party. I hope that there is unanimity of opinion on this issue among all of us. About the second question, about international conventions and the like, it is well-established that the Ambassador of another country does not interfere in the internal affairs of the country to which he is accredited and we take the view that taking sides amongst political parties in the country to which he is accredited certainly transcends that limit which should not be crossed and it amounts more or less to interference in the internal affairs and as such it should be avoided. About the international conventions, they are well established that whereas the Ambassadors have got the right, even the duty, to remove any misunderstandings that might be created about their country in the country to which they are accredited, they should do that in such a manner as not to transgress the limit I have mentioned, that is to say, they should avoid giving an impression of interfering internally amongst the political parties of that country.

श्री केशर लाल गुप्त : मंत्री महोदय को क्या यह मालूम है कि अमेरिका, रूस

और दूसरे बहुत से देशों का लिट्टेचर यहां पर काफी मात्रा में बाटा जाता है ? यहां पर बहुत सारे देशों के एम्बेसेडर भी रहते हैं। कई बार उ.ा लिट्टेचर में कई पोलिटिकल पार्टीज का नाम लेकर या जिस तरह से अभी श्री उमा नाथ ने कहा इसी प्रकार से और लोगों का नाम ले कर एम्बेसेडर भी क्लिटसाइज करते हैं। मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिए। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जिस देश के एम्बेसेडर यहां पर रहते हुए पोलिटिकल पार्टीज को क्लिटसाइज करते हैं क्या आपने उनके पास कोई ऐसी सूचना भेजी है या ऐसा कोई सर्कुलर भेजा है या और कोई कदम उठाया है ताकि उनको यह पता चल सके कि उन्हें ऐसा नहीं करना चाहिए ?

Shri Swaran Singh: Sir, I am glad that for a change Shri Gupta appears to agree with Shri Umanath, although, maybe, for different reasons.

Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta: Yes, we agree on that point. We do not want interference from either side

Shri Swaran Singh: The Ambassador of some country might be criticising his own party; that may be the reason. But I would appeal to him that instead of asking me to reply in this general form, if he could cite to me in any statement of any Ambassador anything which he thinks amount to criticism of a political party functioning in the country, I will have that matter examined. About the general proposition, I have already enunciated the position and I think my submission and my categorical statement on the floor of the House will be enough notice to every member of the diplomatic community.

प्र. जाब्रू कने डी.ब. अमेरिकन रिपोर्टर में अमेरीका के राजदूत ने जो लेख लिखे हैं उनको इंडियन एक्सप्रेस जैसे दूसरे अखबारों ने भी छापने की व्यवस्था की थी। इन लेखों में अमेरीकी राजदूत ने एक बात यह

भी लिखी थी कि उन्होंने भारत सरकार से यह शिकायत की है अमेरीकी राजदूत के नाम से या अमेरीकी सरकार के नाम से कि कई फोर्ज्ड डॉक्यूमेंट्स हिन्दुस्तान में चुनाव के मौके पर फैलाने का, बाटने का काम किया गया था। उन्होंने लेखों के अन्दर लिखा था कि इस मामले में उन्होंने केन्द्रीय सरकार से और सम्बन्धित मंत्री से और विशेषकर विदेश मंत्री से शिकायत भी की थी। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार को खुद इन फोर्ज्ड डॉक्यूमेंट्स के बारे में कोई जानकारी है ? दूसरे मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि अमेरीकी राजदूत ने जो शिकायत एक्सटर्नल एफयर्स मिनिस्टर के पास की थी, उस शिकायत पर क्या कार्रवाई की गई और तीसरे मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह मसला सी० बी० आई० के पास जाच के लिये दिया गया था और दिया गया था तो अभी तक उस पर कोई रिपोर्ट मिली है या नहीं मिली है और मिली है तो क्या मिली है ?

Shri Swaran Singh: About the forged documents about which the hon. Member has made a mention, I confess I have not got the information. If a notice is given, I shall collect the information.

I do not think it is a matter for the CBI to investigate. About this matter having been brought to the notice of the External Affairs Ministry, I have not got precise information

Shri Hem Barua: May I know if Government is aware of the fact that at present there are deep stirrings of an ominous nature in the U.S.A. and one American Senator has gone so far as to say that the food aid to India should be cut down; if it is so, whether Government is in a position to tell us if this article written by the American Ambassador and published in the American Reporter and its criticism have not given an encouragement and inspiration to the press in America to be anti-Indian?

Shri Swaran Singh: I am sorry, I cannot either confirm or contradict that. Presumably, the Ambassador, according to his own statement, has issued this in order to improve relations between India and the United States and I could not presume that it could be his intention that this should be picked up and anti-Indian propaganda should be heightened in the United States press

चीनी तथा पाकिस्तानी सैनिकों का जमाव

+

- *575. श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री :
 श्री रामपुरे :
 श्री देवनकीनन्दन पाटौडिया :
 श्री राम सेवक यादव :
 श्री जयू लिवये :
 श्री जार्ज करनेग्रीड :
 श्री रवि राम :
 श्री महाराज सिंह भारती :
 श्री मोलहू प्रसाद :
 श्री न० कु० साधी :
 श्री रामचन्द्र वीरप्पा :
 श्री बी० अं० शर्मा :
 श्री जगन्नाथराव जोशी :
 श्री हुकम चन्द कल्लवाव :
 श्री राम सिंह आगरवाल :
 श्री धोंकार सिंह :
 श्री ना० स्व० शर्मा :
 श्री झारवानन्द :
 श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :
 डा० कर्षी सिंह :
 श्रीमती निर्मल कौर :
 श्री भारत सिंह चौहान :
 श्री बुद्ध भूषण लाल :
 श्री रञ्जित सिंह :
 श्री विभूति मिश्र :
 श्री क० ना० तिबारी :
 श्री य० अ० प्रसाद :
 श्री स० अं० सामन्त :
 श्री अ० कु० किशु :
 श्री अ० ना० महावी :

- श्री विदित कुमार चौधरी :
 श्री जगन्नाथ सिंह :
 श्री रा० बरुवा :
 श्री धोंकार लाल बेरवा :
 श्री भीष्म लाल :
 श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद :
 श्री अश्वकुमार शास्त्री :
 श्री रामनोपाल सासनाले :
 श्री श्री० प्र० त्यागी :
 श्रीमती ज्योत्सना अंबा :
 श्री अगाड़ी :
 श्री गा० अ० मिश्र :
 श्री प्र० के० देव :
 श्री सु० कु० तापड़िया :
 श्री क० प्र० सिंह देव :
 श्री अजयल खां :
 श्री अडाकर सूपकार :
 श्री अखानन्दजी :
 श्री बंनो अंकर शर्मा :
 श्री क० मि० मधुकर :
 श्री रामावतार शास्त्री :
 श्री देवव्रत बरुवा :

क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भारत की सीमाओं पर हाल में हुए चीनी और पाकिस्तानी सैनिकों के जमाव में कुछ कमी हुई है;

(ख) क्या पिछले दो महीनों में किसी भी सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों में कोई विशेष उल्लेखनीय कार्यवाही नहीं हुई है;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि कुछ बार पाकिस्तान सिवालकोट और रावलपिण्ड शिबलों के क्षेत्रों में विशेष चौकसी कर रहा है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या इस स्थिति का समना करने के लिये सरकार द्वारा कोई कार्यवाही की गई है अथवा कच्चे का विचार है ?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) No, Sir.