

them for staging, refuelling and other facilities for their aircraft. Their intention was not to have any military bases here. This assurance has been given to us by the U.K. Government.

Shri Hem Barua: The U.K. Government propose to buy these islands and lease them out to the Americans to institute transport facilities in the islands. That is the ostensible purpose communicated to us. In that context, may I know whether our Government have sought any guarantee or assurance from the U.K. Government that in view of West Asia developing very fast into a theatre of war, these peaceful bases would not be converted by the Americans into fighting bases?

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: We have never been informed that these places will ultimately be given on lease to the American Government. That is not in our knowledge. But there is a proposal for the U.K. Government to purchase these islands and turn them into places where they can have staging and refuelling facilities for their aircraft. As I said earlier, we have been assured that no military bases would be actually established on these islands. So, the question of bringing cold war into the Indian Ocean does not arise.

Shri Hem Barua: That was not my question.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Patel.

श्री मणिमोहरी शं० पटेल : माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, आपकी मार्फत मैं माननीय विनिस्टर महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आपने इस बारे में संयुक्त राष्ट्र से लिखापढ़ी की है, यदि लिखापढ़ी की है तो वहाँ से इस बारे में क्या प्रत्युत्तर मिला है ?

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: In the main reply it has been said that the question was discussed by the Sub-committee of the U.N. Committee of 24. As soon as the sub-committee's

report is received, it will be considered by the Committee of 24 and after that they will decide what further action is to be taken by the U.N.

श्री मणिमोहरी शं० पटेल : अध्यक्ष महोदय, . . .

Mr. Speaker: He has given the information he has got.

Shri Ganesh Ghosh: Has the attention of the Minister been drawn to the statements made by a few governments to the effect that the real intention of the U.S. Government to acquire those islands is to utilise them as a nuclear umbrella in her policy of containment of China?

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: This kind of reports have come to our notice also, but since we have been given an assurance by the U.K. Government and unless and until proved otherwise we must believe in the bona fide of their assurance. I think they mean what they have said.

Some hon. Members: Sir.....

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Talks with Mr. Richard Nixon of U.S.A.

Shri Mohammad Ismail:
Shri Ganesh Ghosh:
Shri Bhagban Das:
Shri B. K. Modak:
Shri Umanath:
Shri Mohan Swarup:
Shri N. R. Laskar:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri Liladhar Koteki:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri K. N. Tiwary:
Shri R. S. Vidyarthi:
Shri Onkar Lal Barua:

Shri Sharda Nand:
 Shri Shri Gopal Sahoo;
 Shri P. Parthasarathy;
 Shri A. Sreedharan;
 Shri Mangalathumadom;
 Shri P. Vemambharan;
 Shri Kameshwar Singh:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mr. Richard Nixon, U.S. Republican Leader had discussions with top leaders of the Government on the 20th April, 1967 during his South-East Asian tour;

(b) if so, whether he discussed the U.S. Arms supplies to India and Pakistan;

(c) whether Mr. Nixon's visit was in a private capacity or he acted as a representative of President Johnson; and

(d) the outcome of the talks held with him?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) Yes Sir, on April 19th and 21st, 1967.

(b) to (d). Mr. Richard M. Nixon was visiting various Asian countries in his private capacity to inform himself of current problems and views in these countries. He discussed various matters of current importance, including the question of U.S. arms supplies to India and Pakistan on which the U.S. Government had just announced its latest policy. The talks he held in India were of a general and informal nature and there is no question of their having any particular outcome.

Discussions with U.N. Secretary-General

*5. Shri Ramachandra Veerappa:
 Shri Ebrahim Salmaan Sahi:
 Shri N. K. Senghi:
 Shri Raj Raj Madhok:
 Shri A. R. Vajpayee:

Shri Indrajit Gupta:
 Shri P. K. Das:
 Shri K. F. Singh Das:
 Shri D. N. Deb:
 Shri Sarwananath Dwivedy:
 Shri Hem Barua:
 Shri Omkar Singh:
 Shri Omkar Lal Barua:
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:
 Shri Madhu Limaya:
 Shri P. M. Sayeed:
 Shri D. N. Patodia:
 Shri M. Kumpure:
 Shri S. Sengupta:
 Shri N. R. Laskar:
 Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta:
 Shri R. S. Vidyarthi:
 Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:
 Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:
 Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
 Shri K. N. Tiwary:
 Shri N. S. Sharma:
 Shri Sharda Nand:
 Shri Brij Bhushan Lal:
 Shri Yashpal Singh:
 Shri S. C. Samanta:
 Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Shri Hukam Chand Kachwal:
 Shri Bharat Singh:
 Shri Ram Singh Ajarwal:
 Shri Y. A. Prasad:
 Shri Swell:
 Shri K. Barua:
 Shri A. Sreedharan:
 Shri Mangalathumadom:
 Shri P. Vemambharan:
 Shri Kameshwar Singh:
 Shri Yajnik:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had discussions with U. Thant, U.N. Secretary-General during his visit to India in April, 1967 on the proposed non-proliferation treaty, Vietnam, Tibet, Kashmir, Indo-Pak. relations and other matters; and

(b) if so, the outcome of these discussions?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) There was a general exchange of views on Viet-