

*Harare, Indonesia, Australia,  
New Zealand and Thailand*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : 'Raj Se Swaraj' is a sponsored serial produced by Dr. Nissar Allana, an eminent theatre personality. The serial relates to some famous court trials in recent Indian History. The first part related to the trial of Bal-Gangadhar Tilak (4 episodes), the second to the trial of Mahatma Gandhi (4 episodes) and the third to the trial of INA (5 episodes). While approving the proposed serial, Doordarshan had taken into consideration the assurance of the producers that they would produce this programme after thorough research work and also with the help of persons connected with the INA. After the telecast of the first episode of the INA trial which gave the background to the trial, some representations were received that Netaji had not been properly portrayed. An enquiry was made it revealed that what had been shown in the serial was that after giving some good news to his colleagues, Netaji asked for drinks. When he saw Col. Dhillon drinking juice, he asked him the reasons to which Col. Dhillon replied that he had taken an oath that he would not touch alcohol till India attained Independence. To which Netaji replied "Bravo". Later in a subsequent scene a waiter serves juices of various types to both Netaji and Capt. Lakshmi Swaminathan. It is not a fact that I.N.A. trial was shown in a distorted version. Keeping in view, however, the feelings and sentiments expressed by a cross section of the people that the impression they got was that Netaji was taking or encouraging alcoholic drink and, therefore, he had not been properly depicted, the Doordarshan expressed regret for the same and hence it has been decided not to re-telecast this episode with the above scene in future. Further, the scene is also being deleted from the video tape even for our archival purpose. Moreover, Doordarshan has also been directed to take special care while telecasting programmes on national leaders.

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW (Dum Dum) : Sir, may I congratulate the hon. Minister

for taking immediate steps, honouring the sentiments of the people of West Bengal ?

(Interruptions)\*\*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : If you want to quarrel, you may go outside.

[English]

Nothing goes on record.

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR. SPEAKER : What is happening in this House ? Please sit down. Miss Mamata Banerjee, will you take your seat ? Nothing doing. Please sit down.

Mr. Harish Rawat.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Members belonging to the CPM can have objections on the discontinuance of the serial by the Hon. Minister, they may also have objection to congratulating him but they should not forget that none other than Miss Mamata Banerjee had first raised this issue in this House.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Rawat, you please wait for some time. The Prime Minister will make his statement.

STATEMENT RE : PRIME MINISTER'S  
VISIT TO HARARE, INDONESIA,  
AUSTRALIA, NEWZEALAND  
AND THAILAND

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : I attended the Eighth Conference of Nonaligned Countries at Harare

\*\*Not recorded

[Shri Rajiv Gandhi]

from 1st to 7th September. It was a memorable and historic occasion. The 25th anniversary of the Movement was marked by a Special Commemorative Session recalling the signal contribution of the Nonaligned Movement to world peace and reaffirming the continuing validity of the principles and objectives enunciated by its founding fathers—Nehru, Tito, Soekarno, Nkrumah and Nasser.

Warm tributes were paid at the Summit to the memory of the former Chairperson of the Movement, Smt. Indira Gandhi. India's role, as Chairperson of the Movement, in consolidating the unity, strength and cohesion of the Movement, was highly appreciated. Our stewardship has brought to the Movement harmony and stability within, and strength and dynamism externally. Diverse and heterogeneous in composition but unified by a common commitment to freedom, peace and justice, the Movement has remained steadfast in its principles.

At Harare, we handed over the Chairmanship of the Movement to Zimbabwe. The focus of the Summit was on three of the most fundamental issues of our times—human rights in South Africa, freedom for Namibia and the right of all humanity to live in a world free from the constant threat of nuclear extinction.

The Conference adopted a special Declaration on South Africa and established a (Fund for Action For Resisting Invasion, Colonialism and Apartheid: the AFRICA Fund). The AFRICA Fund Committee is chaired by India with Zambia as Vice Chairman. The establishment of this Fund reflects the determination of our Movement to give concrete content to our solidarity with our brethren in the Frontline States and liberation movements in Southern Africa. We have commenced preparatory work on the establishment of this Fund, its work programme and the modalities of its operation. We have had intensive consultations with leaders of the Frontline States on measures to strengthen their capability to fight apartheid, to

enforce sanctions against the racist Pretoria regime and to cope with that regime's retaliatory actions. A meeting of Senior Officials of the Fund Committee will take place in Lusaka later this month. A Ministerial-level meeting will precede a Summit of Heads of State or Government of Member countries of the Fund Committee which will probably be held in Delhi. I sincerely hope this Fund will receive the full support not only of Governments within and outside the Nonaligned Movement but of all Parliaments, voluntary organizations and individuals concerned at the violation of basic norms of civilisation in South Africa and the threat to peace posed by Pretoria.

The Movement remained firm in its support to the cause of the Palestinians and resolute in the defence of the freedom, independence and sovereignty of nonaligned countries threatened by foreign intervention and interference.

The Harare Appeal on Disarmament adopted by acclamation, reflected our Movement's commitment to peace and disarmament and our concern at the growing threat to human survival. It urged the United States and the Soviet Union to take immediate steps to prevent the outbreak of a nuclear war and to agree to a moratorium on nuclear tests as a first step towards a comprehensive test ban treaty. The Summit endorsed the Six-Nation Five-Continent Initiative for Peace and Disarmament which was launched in Delhi.

The last few years have seen a deepening of the world economic crisis. An action Programme for Economic Cooperation was adopted at Harare and a Ministerial Committee set up for harmonising and coordinating action on global and economic issues. A Political Declaration reflected the Movement's consensus on most of the difficult issues confronting the world today.

The Summit was a watershed. It coincided with the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Movement. We reaffirmed our faith in the Movement and in our vision of a world community, united for peace, disarmament and development. We

wish Prime Minister Mugabe success in facing the challenges ahead and pledge him our full support and cooperation.

During the course of the Harare Summit I had the opportunity of making the acquaintence of a number of leaders and renewing my friendship with those whom I had the privilege of meeting on earlier occasions. We had a very useful exchange of views on various international issues and on strengthening our bilateral relationship with a number of countries.

I also paid official visits to Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand and Thailand from 13th to 20th October.

We share with Indonesia a common cultural heritage, a similar struggle against colonialism, and partnership in the Non-aligned Movement. My talks with President Soeharto reflected shared perceptions on major international issues. We recognized that the level of our trade and economic relations was not commensurate with our political ties. We agreed to work out longterm arrangements to add greater economic and commercial content to our relationship and to intensify interaction in the field of science and technology. We look forward to the further consolidation and strengthening of our traditional ties with Indonesia.

Our relations with Australia and New Zealand have been friendly but with little interaction in political or economic terms. Our countries belong to the Asia Pacific region but we have looked more to the West and elsewhere rather than at our own region. This process is being reversed. I hope my visits have given this process a further impetus.

I worked closely with Prime Minister Hawke within the Commonwealth at Nassau and in London to forge a consensus on sanctions against the Pretoria regime. During my visit to Australia we reviewed the progress in consolidating this consensus and building world opinion. We also reviewed our trade and economic relations and agreed that exchanges must be intensified. A Joint Business Council was established to stimulate trade and economic relations. A Science and Technology Agreement was also signed during the visit. We agreed on the

need for greater interaction on expanding our cooperation in the fields of agriculture, space, meteorology and other areas.

My talks with Prime Minister Lange during my visit to New Zealand underlined a close identity of views on many international issues and our common desire to strengthen bilateral cooperation. Agriculture and afforestation were identified as promising areas of cooperation. Agreements on Trade and the Avoidance of Double Taxation were also signed during my visit.

My brief visit to Thailand was the first ever official visit by an Indian Prime Minister. We were accorded a warm welcome in a country with which we have deep and abiding cultural links. I had interesting discussions with the King and a useful exchange of views with Prime Minister Prem. A Protocol on Science and Technology was signed during the visit. We agreed to look into the possibility of establishing a Joint Commission. I am sure that in the years to come we will realise the untapped potential for the development of our bilateral relationship with Thailand.

My visits to these four countries of South East Asia and the Pacific provided the opportunity for translating the goodwill that exists for India in this region into more substantive political relationships and expanding trade and economic cooperation. Though these visits were necessarily of a very short duration, we have good reason to be happy with their outcome.

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CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER  
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE  
Contd.

[English]

Reportedly Distorted Version of I.N.A.  
Trials in the T.V. Serial 'Raj Se Swaraj'.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, why has the statement been made so late ?

MR. SPEAKER : Order, Order.