

[Sh. E. Ahamed]

tinued and discouraged in order to encourage the small - scale industrialists from the Southern States enabling them to take their material by single wagon.

Sir, we are having a lot of rains during the monsoon season in Kerala. Our Railway Stations have been partly covered by roofs. The Railways say that this is the norm taking into account the passengers and other aspects. If they take such a stand, it will be very difficult for us... (*Interruptions*) Please bear with me. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister that the people of Kerala should also be given their due.

Again, supporting the Budget proposals of the Railways, I hope the hon. Minister will give consideration to the facts I have mentioned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I request Shri Eudardo Faleiro to make a statement on the Foreign Secretary's visit to the United States of America.

16.05 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

**Recent Visit of the Foreign Secretary to
the United States of America**

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): Sir, I rise to make a statement on the recent visit of the Foreign Secretary to the United States of America and other related issues which have been raised during Zero Hour in the past few days.

The Foreign Secretary visited Washington, March 9-11, for talks on matters of mutual interest. IndoUS consultations at the Foreign Secretary's level are a regular feature in our bilateral relations and generally

cover the whole gamut of Indo-US ties.

Hon. Members have in the past few days raised a number of pertinent issues relating to Indo-US relations. I would now like to address some of them specifically.

Hon. Members made reference to the so-called Pentagon Paper, extracts of which appeared in the US press on March 8, 1992. The paper is actually a draft which outlines USA's perceptions and strategies in relation to the entire world. The report is not a specific position paper on India or Pakistan. However, the paragraphs of particular concern to India, as they appeared in newspapers in the United States are the following I quote:

"We will seek to prevent the further development of a nuclear arms race on the Indian subcontinent. In this regard, we should work to have both countries, India and Pakistan, adhere to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and to place their nuclear energy facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards. We should discourage Indian hegemonic aspirations over the other States in South Asia and on the Indian Ocean. With regard to Pakistan a constructive US-Pakistani military relationship will be an important element in our strategy to promote stable security conditions in South-West Asia and Central Asia. We should therefore, endeavour to rebuild our military relationship given acceptable resolution of our nuclear concerns."

And the other things which appeared in the newspapers is and I quote:

"The US may be faced with the question of whether to take military steps to prevent the development or use of weapons of mass destructions..."

The Foreign Secretary was instructed to immediately take up these negative references to India. In his meeting with the Deputy Secretary Mr. Lawrence Eagleberger

and the Under Secretary for Defence Mr. Wolfowitz, the Foreign Secretary conveyed our serious concerns on the above. He was informed that this document was a draft paper prepared by middle level Pentagon officials and would be subject to review and modification. India's concerns have been noted by the US and modifications would be made to take them into account. Foreign Secretary was categorically told that there was no perception at US policy making levels which rejected the negative references to India contained in the Pentagon Paper. Officials of both the State Department and the National Security Council with whom the Foreign Secretary raised India's concerns, informed him that the paper does not reflect the position of the US on various issues dealt with and that it is subject to further review.

On the reported Pentagon advocacy for a continued substantial US military relationship with Pakistan, the Foreign Secretary strongly conveyed our views that while it was a bilateral matter between the United States and Pakistan, this would naturally have consequences in terms of Indian assessments and policy orientation.

I would now like to take up the issue of India's position regarding the Non-Proliferation Treaty. There have been some misleading reports that have appeared in the press that India would sign the NPT. Some hon. Members had raised this specifically in Parliament. I would like to categorically state that there is no change in India's position with regard to the NPT. In Washington, the Foreign Secretary reaffirmed our position that India would not sign the NPT since it considered the treaty to be discriminatory. The Foreign Secretary unambiguously put forward India's views in this regard.

I would like to make a clear distinction between India's position on the NPT and her position on nuclear non-proliferation. India has always been against the proliferation of nuclear weapons and her record in this regard is second to none. Speaking at the Security Council on January 31, 1992, Prime Minister had set out India's views in this

regard. He recalled the Action Plan for Disarmament put forward at the Third Special Session on Disarmament in 1988 by the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi which sought to eliminate all weapons of mass destruction in stages, eventually leading to a nuclear-weapon-free and non-violent world. PM said and I quote:

"The Plan contended and all key elements of a new international consensus on nuclear non-proliferation. First, it called for the conclusion of an international convention on the prohibition of the use of threat of use of nuclear weapons. Second, it advocated a comprehensive test-ban treaty. Third, threshold states would undertake obligations not to cross the threshold and this would be linked to corresponding obligations by nuclear-weapon states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals by the year 2010 at the latest."

Prime Minister in fact advocated advancing this time-frame to the year 2000. The House is aware that on the issue of signing the

MPT, India has been under pressure for several years past, including pressure from the erstwhile Soviet Union. We have consistently taken a principled stand to the effect that while the treaty is discriminatory, what is needed is total and complete nuclear disarmament, brought about by balanced, simultaneous, comprehensive and time-bound measures on the lines advocated by India's Action Plan presented at the Third Special session of the UN on Disarmament in 1988. Copies of the plan are available in the Parliament Library. The Prime Minister has elaborated India's stand on all occasions when the matter was raised both in multilateral meetings and bilateral talks.

Honourable Members had also referred to the 5-Power Conference proposal put forward by the United States to discuss security issues, including nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia. During his meeting

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with President Bush in New York on January 31, 1992, Prime Minister detailed Government's position on this. The Prime Minister told President Bush that India was concerned about uncontrolled proliferation of nuclear weapons and did not see how this new phenomenon could be stopped merely by measures of policing. Proliferation had taken on a global dimension and required a global approach. India was prepared to talk to the US on non-proliferation but given the practical situation and ground realities, India had to consider on how deal with the problem. This reality could hardly be dealt with in a meeting of 5 States as such a meeting could become only an exercise in acrimony.

In Washington, Foreign Secretary reiterated India's stand on the above lines in regard to talking bilaterally with the US on the latter's concerns on nuclear non-proliferation.

Some Honourable Members had referred to the proposal for Indo-US joint naval exercised. India has defence cooperation with several friendly countries, including the United State. Indo-US defence cooperation is focussed on exchange of professional information, high level visits and training. In this context, joint training exercises will be undertaken by the Indian and US Navies. It is the Government's view that these training exercises would be professionally useful to our Navy. No agreement has been signed in this regard. I wish to state that the Indian Navy has recently conducted an exercise with the Australian Navy.

It is very important Mr. Chairman that India remains committed to the Indian Ocean being an area without conflict. India would like to see the maintenance of peace and stability in the Indian Ocean region, free from intimidation or rivalry in pursuance of the objectives outlined in the 1971 Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

Hon. Members are aware that the Special 301 investigation against India on the

issue of Intellectual Property Rights has been terminated. The United States Trade Representative had, however, announced on 26 February, 1992 that an Inter-Agency Committee will be mandated to develop options for possible implementation and action if the facts so warrant. Honourable Members know that trade-related IPR issues are being discussed and negotiated in the GATT under the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. It is in this context that Foreign Secretary has conveyed that Indo-US consultations could continue at the Uruguay Round to narrow down differences wherever possible.

In conclusion, the talks that Foreign Secretary conducted with US officials were in a spirit of mutual understanding and friendliness. These talks will continue. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Sir, the latest report says that they had decided not to supply rice to Cuba.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRIBASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, can we raised some issues? We want to put some questions.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up discussion on the Railway Budget.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUHDURY (Katwa): There has to be some discussion on this. Is the Government agreeable for it? There should be a discussion on the whole gamut of Indo-U.S. relations. That is very important for the House and for the country. Sir, we are also giving a notice. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It would no be easier if you speak one by one.