

AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM):

(a) Yes, Sir.

In his speech to the UN General Assembly on October 4, 1982 the Foreign Minister of Pakistan referred to Kashmir without making a mention of the U.N. resolutions and the Simla Agreement.

(b) Government's position that reference to Kashmir issue in the UN forums is contrary to the Simla Agreement has been conveyed to Pakistan on different occasions.

Ban on Wearing Turbans in Schools in U.K.

2475. SHRI SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news items about Indian Sikhs revolting in U.K. against court judgement that Sikhs are not a race, hence cannot wear turbans in schools; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The British Government is aware of the sentiments of the Sikh community both in India and in the U.K. However, the Government of India cannot interfere in the judicial processes of another country.

Recruitment of Indian seamen by Britain's task force

2476. SHRI SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item that the Britain's task force recruited Indian seamen under poor conditions unacceptable to their British counter-

parts during the recent conflict with Argentina; and

(b) if so, what action Government has taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) Government of India are aware of the recruitment of some Indian seamen in a British hospital ship that took part in the Falkland operation.

(b) Does not arise as the Indian seamen took up employment on their own accord.

Campaign launched by the United Front in so-called 'Azad Kashmir'

2477. SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the campaign launched by the United Front in so-called "Azad Kashmir" for free elections, greater autonomy, non-payment of taxes, etc;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto as also to the arrest of political leaders such as Sarvashri C. N. Hussain, Abdul Khaliq Ansari, Abdul Qaiyum and Sardar Mohammad Ibrahim; and

(c) what other details does the Government have in respect of the above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is Government's hope that the people and the political leaders in Pak-occupied Kashmir would enjoy the same democratic rights as in the rest of India.

Meeting of non-aligned group

2478. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the

Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Non-aligned group of four—India, Cuba, Zambia and the PLO recently held an emergent meeting in the context of the Iranian troops having opened a new offensive along the Iran-Iraq border; and

(b) if so, what specific issues were discussed therein and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir. The meeting was held in New York from October 1—3, 1982.

(b) The Ministerial committee reviewed developments in regard to the Iraq-Iran war and assessed the results of its activities and its several meetings with the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Iraq. There was general exchange of views amongst the four members of the committee in regard to the danger of further escalation of hostilities.

The Committee agreed to remain in close contact and reiterated that its efforts to bring about an early, just and peaceful settlement must continue.

Study of world financial economy

2479. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several Commonwealth countries had recommended a study of world financial economy;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) to (c) During the meeting of the Com-

monwealth Finance Ministers held in London in August 1982, it was agreed that in view of the vast politico-economic changes which had taken place since the establishment of the Bretton Woods institutions, there was a need for a new overall examination of the international trade and payments system as a whole and in particular the role of the international economic institutions. It was agreed that without prejudice to action to be taken on issues of immediate importance, such a study should be carried out by the Commonwealth Secretariat. We have concurred in the taking up of such a study. The Commonwealth Heads of Government Regional Meeting held in Suva from 14th to 18th October welcomed this decision and looked forward to the results of the study with great interest.

Meeting of the Maharashtra State Haj Committee

2480. DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the names/recommendations from the Government of Maharashtra of the representatives of the Bombay Municipal Corporation on the Haj Committee;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any meeting of the State Haj Committee was recently held; and

(d) if so, what is the name of the Chairman of the State Haj Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In pursuance of Section 4 (1) (k) of the Haj Committee Act, 1959, the Government have received from the Government of Maharashtra the