

(1) Our Ambassador periodically meets senior representatives of the American Press and appears on Radio and Television shows from time to time;

(2) Other officers also keep in close touch with the US Press media and regularly convey Government of India's views and position on matters of interest to India;

(3) The Press relations work of the Embassy is regularly kept under review for effecting improvements as necessary;

(4) In connection with the Prime Minister's visit to the USA now under way, efforts have been made to keep the American Press informed of important developments in India through personal briefings and distribution of publicity material, appearance of the Ambassador on television and radio, addresses by the Ambassador to various institutions in different parts of the USA, and the publication of special supplements on India in the US media. The Prime Minister's interviews with some sections of the US Press media are appearing in print and on the electronic media before and during her visit. The Prime Minister is also scheduled to appear on television programmes and to address the National Press Club in Washington during her visit, in addition to meeting selected US Journalists informally.

Exploitation of resources of the sea and sea-bed

1822. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO:
SHRI SYED SHAHA-BUDDIN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that USA have decided not to sign the

draft convention for the use and exploitation of the sea which was adopted in April, 1982 by the UN and which shall be opened for signature by the Member States in December;

(b) whether the treaty has any provision for prohibiting unilateral exploitation of resources of the sea and sea-bed by non-signatory States or by their Private Companies;

(c) if not, whether the non-adherence of the USA to the Treaty will create a situation of conflict between proposed international authority and the US Companies engaged in sea-bed mining; and

(d) if so, how it will be resolved?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. The United States Government made an official statement on the 9th July, 1982 through President Reagan to say that the United States will not sign the Convention on the Law of the Sea, adopted on the 30th April, 1982 at the eleventh session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. The United States has stated that the provisions of the Convention concerning deep sea-bed mining do not meet their objectives.

(b) The Convention on the Law of the Sea adopted on 30th April 1982 is a law-making Convention. The Law relating to the exploitation of resources of the sea and the sea-bed will be applicable to all States whether or not they become parties thereto. Regarding the resources of the international sea-bed area, called "the Area" in the Convention, the prohibition of unilateral exploitation is contained in Articles 136 and 137 (particularly paragraph 3 of Article 137) which read as follows:

"Article 136 Common heritage of mankind"

The Area and its resources are the common heritage of mankind.

Article 137 Legal status of the Area and its resources

1. No State shall claim or exercise sovereignty or sovereign rights over any part of the Area or its resources, nor shall any State or natural or juridical person appropriate any part thereof. No such claim or exercise of sovereignty or sovereign rights, nor such appropriation shall be recognised.

2. All rights in the resources of the Area are vested in mankind as a whole, on whose behalf the Authority shall act. These resources are not subject to alienation. The minerals recovered from the Area, however, may only be alienated in accordance with this Part and the rules, regulations and procedures of the Authority.

3. No, State or natural or juridical person shall claim, acquire or exercise rights with respect to the minerals recovered from the Area except in accordance with this Part. Otherwise, no such claim, acquisition or exercise of such rights shall be recognised."

(c) If the United States does not adhere to the Convention and goes in for unilateral sea-bed mining, it will be acting against the law embodied in the Convention on the Law of the Sea. Since the Convention law is general international law, in the development of which the United States delegation had played an active role between 1973 and 1982, they would not be able to sustain the legal validity of their unilateral action. However, a situation of conflict between the proposed International Sea-bed Authority and the US companies will be created

by unilateral action by the United States.

(d) Such conflict might be resolved either by persuasion or through negotiations or through challenge of the legal validity of their action in the International Court of Justice.

Meeting of Non-Aligned Foreign Ministers held at Nicosia

1823. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO:

SHRI SYED SHAHA-BUDDIN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the meeting of non-aligned Foreign Ministers at Nicosia has decided to apply diplomatic and economic sanctions against Israel;

(b) the names of non-aligned countries which have diplomatic relations with Israel;

(c) the names of non-aligned countries which have trade relations with Israel;

(d) the names of non-aligned countries which have consular relations with Israel but not diplomatic relations with Israel; and

(e) whether Government propose to co-sponsor a resolution in the General Assembly for the application of sanctions against Israel and if necessary for its expulsion from the organisation?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) The Final Communique issued at the conclusion of the Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-aligned Countries on the Question of Palestine held in Cyprus from July 15 to 17 1982, inter-alia, calls for "the intensification, by national and international means, of