

# REFERENCE TO THE REPORTED STATEMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER ON CHINA

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA (Delhi): Sir, the Prime Minister made a statement on the 11th June in Washington in a NBC-TV meet the Press Conference which, in fact, is a very damaging statement and it deserves to be mentioned in this House as a matter of urgent public importance. This has appeared in the New York Times of the 12th June, 1978. Now, I would just mention the relevant portions so that the House can see the damaging statements made by the Prime Minister. 'India ready to drop China's border claim.' This is the headline. There is also another headline which says. 'Desai links acceptance of seizure of territory to improved relations'. The name of the special correspondent is given there, Mr. David Binder. The report says:

'WASHINGTON, June 11—Prime Minister Morarji R. Desai of India indicated in an interview broadcast today that his Government was prepared to accept China's seizure of 14,000 square miles of disputed territory between 1957 and 1962 and to acknowledge the present boundary formally at some point in the future. He said that India's condition for according formal recognition to the present frontier would be restoration of friendly relations between the two countries, which fought a frontier war in 1962.'

The same thing has been reported by another newspaper also, namely, the International Herald Tribune. They reported it on Tuesday, the 13th June, 1978. The first part of the headline read '14,000 square miles of India'. The second part of the headline says 'Desai hints at acceptance of China's occupations'. The first part deserves special mention here. This particular statement of the Prime Minister has generated a number of reactions in different countries. I was in Tokyo, Honk Kong, Peking, Seoul and Hanoi.

In fact, I was there during the same period. The newspapers there reacted very negatively and, in fact, it was considered as a ridiculous statement in Peking. They also referred to his earlier statement on Sikkim. I am only referring to the relevant portions. Now, the press report says that this statement has been made by India's Prime Minister. Therefore, the Prime Minister cannot say that he mentioned this particular thing as an individual. He has evolved 2 P.M. a new concept under the caption 'genuine non-alignment' and people laugh at this new concept. 'Genuine non-alignment' has been explained by him by accusing Mrs. Gandhi who was advocating a thing, known only as 'non-alignment'. According to him non-alignment meant proximity to Soviet Russia and the new concept which has been introduced by him now would be 'genuine non-alignment', and according to him this would be putting the country nearer to the United States of America. Only till recently Shri Morarji Desai was part of a Cabinet, rather Cabinets, which were advocating the policy of nonalignment and he digested the old concept. Now when he has become the Prime Minister he has introduced the new concept, as 'genuine non-alignment' which puts him nearer to the U.S.A. My fear is and the country will be shocked with the statement that he might come out with newer concepts any time which might be more genuine non-alignment or the most genuine non-alignment which might put the country I do not know where. These statements have generated some editorials where the analysts and the experts outside have taken this very statement of the Prime Minister to be an indication of a part of hatching an international conspiracy. In fact, in one of the editorials it is said, the Prime Minister, Mr. Morarji Desai, might be a great philanthropist, or a big donor in his personal capacity, but he cannot take the liberty of donating or distributing the territory of the country. He cannot put 14,000 miles

[Shri Charanjit Chanana]

of the country in a plate and offer it to China to please the United States of America and generate the genuine non-alignment" concept. Thanks.

**SHRI HAREKRUSHNA MALLICK** (Orissa): This matter has been misreported and the Prime Minister has already said that . . .

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** Don't reply to him.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** I have to inform Members that I have received a letter dated the 6th July, 1978, from Shrimati Ambika Soni, an extract of which is as follows:

"I am writing to seek your permission to absent myself from the Rajya Sabha commencing on the 17th July, 1978, due to personal reasons which will keep me away from India upto the 10th August, 1978,"

Is it the pleasure of the House that permission be granted to Shrimati Ambika Soni for remaining absent from the meetings of the House from 17th July, 1978, up to 10th August, 1978?

(No hon. Member dissented)

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** Permission to remain absent is granted.

#### ALLOCATION OF TIME FOR DISPOSAL OF GOVERNMENT LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** I have to inform Members that the Business Advisory Committee at its meeting held today, the 21st July, 1978, allotted time as follows for Government Legislative Business to be taken up

during the current Session of the Rajya Sabha:—

| Business   | Time Allotted                            |
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| 1. Further consideration and passing of the Visva-Bharati (Amendment) Bill, 1978.                                  | 1—day on Monday, the 24th July, 1978.    |
| 2. Consideration and passing of the Employment of Children (Amendment) Bill, 1978.                                 |  |
| 3. Motion for reference of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (Amendment) Bill, 1978, to Joint Committee. | 1—day on Tuesday, the 25th July, 1978.   |
| 4. Consideration and passing of—   |  |
| (i) The Press Council Bill, 1977, as reported by the Joint Committee of the Houses.                                | 1 day—on Wednesday, the 26th July, 1978. |
| (ii) The Repealing and Amending Bill, 1978.  |  |
| 5. Consideration and passing of the following Bills, as passed by the Lok Sabha :—                                 |  |
| (a) The Maintenance of Internal Security (Repeal) Bill, 1978.  |  |
| (b) The Tobacco (Amendment) Bill, 1978.  | 1 day—on Thursday, the 27th July, 1978.  |
| (c) The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Bill, 1978.   |  |

The Committee recommended that the House should sit upto 6.00 P.M. daily and beyond 6.00 P.M. as and when necessary for the transaction of Government Business.