

कई प्रकार के दबाव होते हैं मालिकों के। आड़वाणी जी को निन्दा करनी चाहिए थी मालिकों की और उनके बारे में कहना चाहिए था कि उनसे कहा गया था रेंगे लेकिन वे तलवे चाटने लगे। लेकिन उन्होंने मालिकों के विरुद्ध कुछ नहीं कहा। उन्होंने पत्रकारों के विरुद्ध कहा। इससे पत्रकारों का मनोबल गिरा है, वे समझते हैं कि हम निरीह हैं। चाहे उनका उद्देश्य प्रेशर डालना न हो, लेकिन इससे प्रेशर पड़ता है।

‘समाचार’ हो सकता है कि वे अपने हाथ में जान-बूझकर नहीं रखा चाहते हैं। लेकिन ‘समाचार’ वाले कितने डरे हुए हैं। जब मैंने 4 जून को एक वक्तव्य दिया, निरीह सा वक्तव्य, कि मैंने किन परिस्थितियों में त्यागपत्र दिया तो उस वक्तव्य को भी उन्होंने नहीं छपा क्योंकि वे डरे हुए थे। हो सकता है उन्होंने आड़वाणी जी से पूछ लिया होता तो वे कह देते कि इसे जाने दो। जो डर पिछली सरकार ने पैदा किया चाहे या अनचाहे उससे ज्यादा डर आज लोगों में है। मेरा केवल यही अनुरोध है कि इस डर को समान कीजिये। मेरा जो हेतु था हो चुका। मुझे अपने में दिलचस्पी नहीं है। मुझे प्रेम की स्वतंत्रता में और उन गरीब पत्रकारों में दिलचस्पी है जिनके निर पर तलवारें झल रही हैं।

दूसरा मेरा आपसे आग्रह यह है—आपने दूरदर्शन और आकाशवाणी को काफी हद तक तटस्थ बना दिया है—आप समाचार को भी तटस्थ बनाइये। कल जब मैंने रेडियो पर समाचार सुना पत्रकारों की अन्तरिम सहायता के मवाल पर—विरोध-पक्ष के लोगों ने काफी कुछ कहा था—तो रेडियो ने केवल इतना कहा कि विरोध के लोगों ने इस मामले को उठाया और आड़वाणी जी ने अपनी सहायुक्ति प्रकट की जब कि आड़वाणी जी ने उन से अपनी कोई सहायुक्ति नहीं दिखायी। तो जब तक सरकार का अंकुश समाचार एजेंसियों पर है उस समय तक आप उस अंकुश का इस्तेमाल भले के लिये कीजिये, उनको गुनाम बनाने के लिये न कीजिये। यही मेरा निवेदन है।

• **श्री उपसभापति :** सदन की कार्यवाही ढाई बजे तक के लिये स्थगित की जाती है।

The House then adjourned for lunch at thirty-one minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at lunch at thirty-two minutes past two of the clock, Mr. Deputy Chairman in the Chair.

STATEMENTS BY PRIME MINISTER REGARDING HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTERS' CONFERENCE HELD IN LONDON

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI) : Mr. Deputy Chairman Sir, as the House is aware, I returned this morning after attending the meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government. In this tour I also stopped off for a few hours in Tehran at the invitation of His Imperial Majesty Shahanshah and for a day in Paris as guest of the President of France. Both of them are old and valued friends with whom I was very happy to renew friendships. In my discussions we were able to advance the cause of mutual collaboration and cooperation in matters of common concern and we found a great deal of similarity of approach to world problems particularly those pertaining to energy.

This was my first trip abroad after the assumption of office by our Government. It was a matter of great satisfaction to find that following our democratic elections and the orderly change of Government, the esteem and prestige of India had not only been restored but demonstrably enhanced in the international community. In my talks not only with the Shahanshah, the leaders of the British Government and those of France, but also with other Heads of Government attending the Commonwealth Conference, in the contacts with the Press media and indeed with people in all walks of life, there was admiration for the maturity of the Indian people in their dedication and commitment to the democratic system of Government. When questioned, on various occasions, I pointed out that the tradition of democracy was rooted in the ancient civilization of India. Foreign rule and such aberrations like the period of emergency, were contrary to our values and our national ethos. The elections have shown that in the final instance

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the Indian people have an inherent moral courage to judge and elect their own rulers without fear. Privately and publicly, I assured all concerned that the new Government of India, buoyed by the trust of the Indian people, are totally dedicated to the principles of democracy and would ensure that our constitutional principles can never again be perverted. In turn, I was told that the extraordinary courage and sagacity of the Indian people was an asset and an encouragement to likeminded people all over the world. I, therefore, regard whatever success I achieved and attention and respect I received as a tribute to our people who proclaimed to the whole world through their verdict their faith in democratic values, their disapproval of authoritarianism and their judgment and capacity to choose a Government which they could trust to serve them.

The Conference of Heads of Government of the Commonwealth was held in London after a lapse of eight years. The Commonwealth is, I would emphasise, an association of independent States, entirely free in their internal and external policies, some still owing allegiance to the British Crown, others with monarchies of their own and some like ourselves with a purely republican constitution, but all free to express themselves as suits the interests of their own country and motivated by securing a consensus on problems of their common concern.

The Commonwealth, as the House is aware, is a multi-racial and multi-continental community of nations representing one quarter of mankind, some rich and strong, others small and weak. But all recognise the logic of inter-dependence and commonality of interests. In population, India represents more than half of its total number of inhabitants. Unlike the United Nations, the Commonwealth is not structured or governed by elaborate procedures. It mirrors the diversity of the entire community of nations, but has a character of informality and a tradition of cooperation which is perhaps unique. The Commonwealth as

it is now constituted, thus provides the kind of balance which we want to see in the world and is an institution which can in **course of time set the pattern for a Commonwealth of the whole world.**

The Conference met under the Chairmanship of my old friend and Prime Minister of U.K., Mr. James Callaghan. He proved an admirable Chairman whose bonhomie, cheerful disposition, balanced approach to the various issues that came up **were contributory to the evolution of a common outlook and approach that underlie the decisions that were reached.** I found in him and all the other Heads of Government or leaders of the various countries a keen desire to take a constructive attitude and come together, rather than drift apart. The problems discussed were such sensitive subjects as those of Human Rights, Southern Africa, Indian Ocean, North-South economic relationship, the problems of developing countries, in all of which there could have been valid reasons for differences of opinion. But as the result of the deliberations embodied in the communique which was issued at the end would show, all of us showed willingness to reach a consensus without sacrifice of the national viewpoints.

We participated actively in the discussions on all subjects, particularly the review of the international situation, Southern Africa and world economic problems. In the socio-economic context, we **highlighted the relevance and significance of evolving and adopting technologies appropriate to the social and economic conditions obtaining in the developing countries.** We emphasised that the role of machines was to assist man in increasing his productivity and not make him their slave. We pointed out that development effort and economic progress should focus on the small and the poor and not go astray by the lure of the big and the grandiose. The crucial need for solving the problems of food production, storage and distribution and implementing our integrated programme of rural development and industrialisation were effectively brought out in our statements.

The communique issued in London day-before-yesterday, which must have received the attention of Honourable Members already, reflects the range of subjects and the depth of discussions, and the broad consensus reached at the conference. It covers all major international problems like Southern Africa, the Middle East, Indian Ocean, Cyprus, and the widening gap between rich and poor nations and makes practical recommendations on economic, trade and functional cooperation within the Commonwealth.

A number of Commonwealth countries were greatly concerned over the question of human rights in relation to Uganda. The Singapore Declaration of Principles adopted by the Commonwealth Heads of Government in 1971, affirmed the belief of all Commonwealth Governments in fundamental rights and respect for human dignity and equality. As the House is only too well aware, we are fully committed to these principles. While the discussions on this subject at the conference were not without differences of opinion, a broadly acceptable formulation was eventually worked out in keeping with the Commonwealth traditions.

It would, I think, be appropriate at this stage to pay tribute to the work of the Commonwealth Secretariat, now under the able leadership of Mr. Ramphal, formerly Foreign Minister of Guyana. A part from the many activities of the Secretariat to maintain the diverse professional and institutional links among Commonwealth countries, and its innovative role in expanding intra-Commonwealth cooperation, the Secretariat has taken very creditable initiatives in the field of economic cooperation among the Commonwealth countries. By international standards, the Commonwealth Secretariat's efforts to promote such cooperation have shown beneficial results at comparatively low cost. We in India have been glad not only to contribute to this cooperative programme, but have also benefited from it, especially in our trade promotion efforts.

Besides the deliberations of the conference, the great value of the gathering was that it provided an opportunity for informal and bilateral contacts with so many distinguished leaders of Commonwealth Governments. Apart from renewing my friendship with the British Prime Minister, Mr. Callaghan, I had purposeful discussions with the President of Bangladesh about our regional and bilateral problems. Both President Zia and I agreed that it was in our national and common interests that our relations should be built on the logic of good neighbourly cooperation. With the Canadian Prime Minister, we reviewed the problems which had come up in the way of our harmonious relations and agreed that within the framework of our respective national policies, efforts should be made so that beneficial cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology can be resumed and the old tradition of Indo-Canadian friendship revived. The Prime Minister of Australia and I felt that from their respective geographic vantage points, the Commonwealth Governments of Asia and the Pacific might with advantage establish closer contacts in a region where they share common interests. Similarly, from my conversations with President Kaunda of Zambia, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam of Mauritius, and other leaders of African nations on the one hand and the Prime Minister of Jamaica and the leaders of the Caribbean on the other, I sensed that the Commonwealth countries cherished their relationships with India and expressed a firm desire to intensify and enlarge the established avenues of our cooperation. The Foreign Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, separately met many of his colleagues, and like myself came away with the impression that every Commonwealth partner sought not merely to maintain but to strengthen its relations with the new Government of India. In his conversations he also covered many important issues concerning our bilateral relations with various Commonwealth countries.

This visit also provided me with opportunities to meet a large number of represen-

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tatives of the Indian community resident in the United Kingdom and also of the world press and media. Everywhere a new kind of interest in India was now evident. Whether it was the Indian community or the media, there is a feeling of renewed faith and expectation from democratic India. In the largely attended meeting of the Indian community which was held in London on 12th June, on behalf of our people I responded with warmth to the dedicated and emotional interest which they have in the land of their birth. At the same time, I called upon them to be worthy of the traditions of this ancient land by winning respect through genuinely motivated efforts towards social adjustment with the people of the country of their present domicile.

Sir, this visit vividly conveyed to me that almost every country sought not only the friendship of our country, but would, I believe, rejoice at our political triumph and our economic achievements. There was no Commonwealth country which, after understanding the policies to which the present Government is pledged, looks upon India with malice or indulges in any unwarranted criticism towards our national objectives. It is recognised that the policy of true non alignment as enunciated and practised by us not only serves our interests but makes India a coveted partner in their own network of relationships and their view of a stable world order. However, we know only too well that the role we can play in the international forums will ultimately depend on our domestic strength and the progress we make towards economic, scientific and technological self-reliance.

As mentioned earlier, I met His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah of Iran in Tehran. During the discussions, the Foreign Minister and I had the pleasure of meeting Prime Minister Hoveyda and Foreign Minister Khalatbari. Our discussions were wide-ranging in scope and gave abundant proof of Iran's goodwill and the abiding vitality and potential of our collaboration. Moreover we agreed that our countries have shared interest in the stability and pro-

gress of the region to which we both belong.

Similarly, the stopover in Paris on the way back at the request of the President of France afforded to me another opportunity to discuss a number of issues of common interest. My conversations with President Giscard d'Estaing and Prime Minister Barre were extremely friendly and reinforced the prospects of our close and beneficial relations with France.

Questions relating to the use of nuclear energy in the context of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons were raised with me in many conversations. I had the opportunity of reaffirming our position, which had been made clear on many occasions, both in this country and outside, that we are interested in developing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes only.

Sir, We have wider options to develop beneficial relations with the community of nations than ever in the past. In the last three months since we assumed office, within the framework of the positive thrust of non-alignment, we have assured old friends of our abiding commitments and repaired estranged relationships, both near and far. We can claim that our neighbours have greater trust in our friendship and the subcontinent as a whole is less disturbed by tensions and more inclined to cooperation. The Commonwealth conference and this trip abroad provided me with an opportunity to affirm to the leaders from all parts of the world that this Government of India, sustained in the exhilaration of the trust of its people, and inspired once again by the vision and idealism of Gandhiji, will be second to none in its commitment to world at peace striving towards international social justice.

Altogether, this opportunity of meeting the Heads of more than thirty Commonwealth countries, the Shahanshah of Iran and the President and Prime Minister of France, proved that India commands great goodwill and respect in the international community.

SHRI BHUPESHI GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I would like to ask a question. First of all, I must say this that I very much appreciate that the Prime Minister, immediately on his return home, has lost no time in making a comprehensive statement of this kind. It is a very welcome attitude towards Parliament. For many years, Sir, we did not have such statements on the visit abroad of the former Prime Minister to attend the Commonwealth Conference or on her visit abroad for attending similar conferences perhaps. But I can say that he has given us a lot of useful information. I would like to ask in his presence—Mr. Advani is also here now—whether it would be possible to have a discussion on this statement because a dialogue will be better between the Government and the Opposition on a subject of this kind on which there is a broad national agreement quite apart from our views on the Commonwealth. But I would like to ask only one question, rather a few questions.

Sir, I am glad that Shri Morarji Desai has referred to Bangladesh. In the newspaper reports from England and also in this country, we came across a news item that he had discussions on the question of the political refugees from Bangladesh and it was reported that he has told Gen. Ziaur Rahman that we would not hand them over or we would not force the political refugees to go. I would like to know whether that subject was discussed because he is and we are all committed to giving political asylum to the refugees and we do not know whether the assurances are being implemented or not. Mr Desai may kindly find out. But I should like to know whether that subject was specifically discussed because a word of assurance from him will be very useful for those refugees, for those political refugees from Bangladesh, who are anxious about their future in this country and who, according to some reports, are being handed over to Bangladesh.

Sir, there is another thing. It is a bilateral issue between Bangladesh and India

and this is not a general discussion on the Commonwealth Conference and I hope he would be good enough to mention this. It is a good thing that he has made a comprehensive statement. But I would like to know from him what happened on this question.

Then, with regard to Southern Africa, we read in the newspapers that many Commonwealth members took the view that Britain was not in favour of fulfilling the obligation with regard to ending the racist regime in Rhodesia. I would like to know whether any kind of action, political or otherwise, has been evolved for ending the minority rule, the racist rule, in that country and for giving what is their due to our African friends there. I would like to be enlightened on this subject, and other things. I do not wish to ask him because he has given quite a comprehensive statement. We can discuss it next week for a good follow-up action. We used to have such an opportunity in the past, many years ago, in Shri Jawaharlal Nehru's time, when particularly such statements had been debated. Let there be a chance of discussing it. The Prime minister will be benefited by our views and we will be benefited by his views.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY (Karnataka): The Prime Minister has made a very comprehensive statement. I have already sent in my request to you for a discussion on this very important statement which the Prime Minister has made. It will be interesting for us to discuss this as early as possible.

Now I would like to seek only two clarifications from the Prime Minister. First, in the Commonwealth Conference have they decided to apply sanctions against South Africa and Rhodesia? Secondly, I would like to know whether in his discussions with the Bangladesh President the question of sharing the waters between Bangladesh and India was taken up and whether an agreement has already been reached or is going to be reached, satisfactory to both the countries.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI : Sir, I hope this does not become a practice, because it will be very difficult for me to reply to all the hon. Members who ask me questions, and I cannot then make a distinction between one Member and another. Therefore, I hope that will not be done as a regular practice. They can speak whatever they like during the Budget discussion. I do not think there can be a separate discussion on this.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : In the past we have done this.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI : Well, you reject something of the past if you want to make a new future. I am interested only in that. Let us also save some time. I will not be able to say things here which may involve me in a different way with other Heads of State. I have to be very careful about it. Whatever hon. Members may say here may involve me in other discussions there. Therefore, I will not be able to state much more than what I have already stated.

The President of Bangladesh and I did discuss the question of refugees and also the question of sharing the waters of the Ganges. As regards the refugees who are here, I have told him that if he could assure safety and equality of treatment to those people when they return to Bangladesh, then those who want to go can go there. But I shall certainly not pressurise anybody who does not want to go there. That is what I told him and he accepted the position. What more could have been done? But I do not think there is likely to be difference of opinion in this matter.

As regards the sharing of Ganges waters there has been an agreement for the lean period as well as for the long-range distribution of waters, when there is good water supply. I do not think there would be any difficulty in that. But I have told him, and he has also seen the point, that to have a permanent solution about the distribution of waters, it is necessary to take up the Brahmaputra scheme, and both of us take that up, we will be able to solve this problem satisfactorily for all

of us. It that happens the anxiety about the Calcutta port also will be removed. All these things we have discussed, and I think what I said had a favourable reaction. Beyond that, I cannot say much at this stage.

I hope the hon. Members will help me in this task of discussions with other Heads of State by not pressing me to say anything at a stage before agreements are arrived at. This is what my request is.

3 P.M.

SHRI D. P. SINGH (Bihar) : With your permission, Sir, since the Prime Minister happens to be present in the House, may I raise a question of grave public importance? We are proud to have a Prime Minister who lives on standards set for himself. Now something has happened in the party and the Prime Minister had been saying that if a party or a particular Member loses the confidence of the electorate ...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Will the hon. Member take his seat?

SHRI D. P. SINGH : I will take only one minute. The Prime Minister had been saying that if a party or a particular Member loses the confidence of the electorate, then that Member must retire and there must be elections. On the same principle today, I seek the resignation of Mr. Rajnarain. In all the five Assembly constituencies, Janta Party has lost and the Congress is victorious. I implore and expect and the country expects that the Prime Minister will live upto the expectations. That will be a debt of gratitude to a great leader who crowned the party with success and brought disparate elements together.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, we have reports that some of the refugees are being forced out of the country by B.S.F. We have got it from reliable sources from the West Bengal border. The reports came in your absence. About 500 of them have been forced out. You kindly inquire because it is not your policy to force them out.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI : I will certainly inquire.