

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : In any case at 5 o' clock we have got a half an-hour discussion. We have got to sit. Mr. Pitamber Das. He is not here. Mr. Choudhury.

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RESOLUTION RE ACCORDING RECOGNITION TO THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIET-NAM

HRI SUHRID MULLICK CHOU-DHURY (West Bengal) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, I beg to move the following Resolution :-

"This House is of opinion that the Government of India should immediately recognise the provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet-Nam and raise the status of India's diplomatic representative in the Democratic Republic of North Viet-Nam to that of Ambassador."

The Resolution is self-explanatory. So, I am not going to waste the time of the House. I thank the Deputy Chairman for allowing me to move this Resolution.

The question was proposed.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Mr. Deputy Chairman, I am very happy that after adopting a very momentous resolution today with regard to the abolition of privy purses and special privileges, this House is discussing another resolution of great international and national significance. We are discussing it at a time where Mr. Deputy Chairman, a delegation of the National Liberation Front and the Provisional Revolutionary Government is visiting currently our country as honoured guests of the entire freedom-loving people.

Now Viet Nam, as you know, is one country, but unfortunately American intervention and American aggression has caused an artificial division. What was once part of Viet Nam is under direct occupation by the American troops, but even there the majority of the territory in South Viet Nam is not under either the puppet regime which the Americans have bolstered up or under the American troops.

Recently it has been shown how the Americans are behaving in South Viet-Nam in the disclosures of the outrages on My Lai village in South Viet Nam on March 18th last year. Even American public opinion has been shocked by the outrage, and, as you know, the so-called 'C' Company and the people who were responsible for this cruel, dastardly outrage or genocide or mass massacre of 600 men, women and children are being indicted but only as a cover for the Pentagon and the Washington rulers. After all these people committed the crime, the G-men of the U. S. A. in South Viet Nam, on the instructions and directions of the Pentagon, the American High Command and of the Washington rulers. If anywhere anybody were to be treated as war criminals and punished for this crime against humanity, it should be the American President and his administration, it should be Gen. Westmoreland and others of the Pentagon, who are carrying on for years and years this diabolical aggression in South Viet Nam which could be likened only to the nightmare of Hitler's aggression.

Mr. Deputy Chairman, today it is a matter of joy for us that our people are solidly behind the fighting and freedom-loving Viet-Nameese people; whether they are fighting in the South or whether they are fighting in the North they are fighting for the common cause of independence, neutrality, peace, democracy and social progress in Viet Nam. Therefore, I think it is our duty to extend to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet Nam India's recognition. Mr. Dinesh Singh in one of his speeches had said that the Government had a sympathetic attitude towards the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet Nam. Then I asked why that Government should not be recognised. This Government is the product of the National Liberation Front. Not only the National Liberation Front but all those others outside the National Liberation Front and who stand for independence and progress and prosperity of the Viet-Nameese people met together and created this Provisional Revolutionary Government embodying the will and the spirit of the entire Viet-Nameese people inhabiting that area of South Viet Nam. It is our duty to recognise that Government. The South Viet-Nameese puppet regime which has been enjoying recognition or a kind of recognition at the Consulate level of the Government of India has no *locus standi*;

in the moral, political and factual life of the South Viet-Nameese people. Everybody knows that its writ does not run beyond a few miles or so of the perimeter of Saigon, and even within Saigon this Government finds it difficult to function at night. Most of the cities, towns and villages are under the jurisdiction of the Provisional Revolutionary Government, as indeed it should be. Therefore, from the point of view of sheer fact the Provisional Revolutionary Government deserves the recognition of the Government of India and our country. This we owe to our conscience.

When we were fighting for our freedom Indo-China was fighting for its freedom and at the time there developed very historic bonds between the Viet-Nameese fighters on the one hand and leaders of the National Liberation movement on the other. It will be recalled that the Brussels conference of the League against Imperialism held in 1927, which was attended by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, was also attended by Dr. Ho Chi-Minh, the great departed leader of the Viet-Nameese people, a pride of all Asia. It was in that conference in 1927 that deep bonds were forged between our freedom struggle and their freedom struggle. Then at the time of the Calcutta Congress session we saw the Viet-Nameese freedom-fighters fraternising with the Indian freedom-fighters. Then after independence when Shri Nehru called in 1947 the conference with regard to Asian peace and freedom, that also was attended by representatives of the Viet-Nameese freedom-fighters. Then when the Geneva Agreement came, after the Dien Bien Phu victory, where the Viet-Nameese freedom-fighters registered one of the majestic and historic victories of all time, our country went forward to see that the Geneva Agreement was arrived at, and to that agreement, though we were not a party to it, we had given our moral support. That agreement which stands for non-interference by foreign powers in the affairs of Viet-Nam clearly stands against aggression and introduction of military weapons and other things. That agreement is one to which Mr. Eisenhower, the then President of the United States of America, gave his moral support. In fact, on the morrow of the signing of the Agreement on the 20th of June 1954, the American President and his Administration declared : "Although the United States was not a party to the Geneva Conference, the United States

would honour that Agreement in full measure". Yet, that international commitment has been violated and torn to shreds in the violence and brutality, in the arson and loot, which have been let loose on the Vietnamese people. Mr. Deputy Chairman, you know very well that today there are 500,000—odd U.S. troops in South Vietnam, which has a population of barely 14 million or so. The entire country has been, as it were, taken over by the American troops, and Americans are spending there every year Rs. 25,000 crores for the war in Viet Nam which is more than the total national income of this country. And, as you know, the problem is one of violence, not only violence, but use of napalm bombs, poisonous gas, destruction of harvest, hearths and homes, violation of women, of their honour, raids, plunder and all kinds of other atrocities. The B-52 bombers are thrown on the North Vietnamese people and there are ten American fleets with 70,000 troops on board the ships to carry them and support them. Troops have come from Thailand, the Philippines and other parts, in that campaign of subjugation, of barbarism, of violence. It is our duty today to stand by the Vietnamese people. Therefore, I say that recognition should be granted to the people of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of Vietnam. Through that Government, Mr. Deputy Chairman, speaks the soul of all Asia. You find the concentrated expression of all that is best, all that is honourable, all that is heroic and all that is noble in Asian civilization in that Government. And there exists the glorious Democratic Republic of Vietnam which was headed until recently by one of the greatest figures of modern history, Dr. Ho-Chi Minh. And that country, that State, is building a new society where men have been emancipated from age-long bondage, illiteracy, disease and suffering, and they are on the road of progress and prosperity.

Mr. Deputy Chairman, our international pursuits are spelt out in the Directive Principles of our Constitution. Article 51 and other Articles speak about them, and if you go through them, you will see that what Vietnam stands for coincides with everything that we stand for, peace, neutrality, non-alignment, social progress, democracy and independence. So it is our Constitutional duty to extend to the Vietnamese people our recognition of the Provisional Revolutionary Government and also elevate our Consulate, our Diplomatic Mission in Hanoi, to the level of the an embassy. But this is t

[Shri Bhupe'h Gupta]

not being done. Only the other day the Foreign Minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, declared that Government had decided more or less to elevate or upgrade the the Indian Consulate in North Vietnam, in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, to the level of an Embassy. But this is not being done. Why ? What is coming in their way ? I should like to know. I know what is coming in their way. The Americans have threatened that "If you do so, then your aid will be affected and we shall adopt an attitude not friendly, possibly hostile". If that is so, it is all the more the reason for the vindication of our own national honour that we recognise and elevate our Mission there to the full status of a Diplomatic Mission, that is, to the status of an Embassy. In fact, it is a commitment. But we are not implementing this. How are we going to handle this situation ? How do we tell the world that we stand for peace, progress, independence and neutrality ? Mr. Deputy Chairman, there is no justification whatsoever in not doing this. Americans are on the retreat today. They are isolated in the war. Even when President Nixon had to contest the election, it was his objective to put an end to the war they are waging. It was, of course, a camouflage. But he had to say this before the American electorate because American people are rising more and more against what they call "the Vietnam war of Washington" and the Pentagon, and you see today in the United States of America mighty demonstrations of the American men and women, carrying forward the noble traditions of Lincoln and Jefferson, of the Bill of Rights in the American Constitution, taking place in support of the Vietnamese people. If within America, the American people in tens of thousands could come forward against their Government, why not this country recognise fully the Democratic Republic of Vietnam ? Why there should be agitation, we cannot understand. There is no justification. My friend, Mr. Suhrid Mullick Choudhury, has done a signal service to this country by bringing forward this Resolution, and he deserves the congratulations not only of this House but of all freedomloving people all over the world, and I do think, Mr. Deputy Chairman, no time should be lost in extending full recognition to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam recognising, at the same time the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam. To allow the puppet regime, and its representatives to live in Delhi in their Missions

is an insult to our country. If anybody should be here representing these people, it should be the representatives of the Provisional Revolutionary Government, of the National Liberation Front. They are the only authentic representative one can think of. They should be here and Government should hold all fruitful discussions with them so that our relationships improve and progress. It is a question of not making a good gesture to them only. Vietnamese can look after themselves very well. As things stand, America is going to be defeated in this war. South Vietnamese are not going to offer a camouflage for manoeuvres and aggressions. They are not going to be misled by Mr. Nixon's so-called talk of a phased withdrawal, because it is nothing but Vietnamisation of the American war. Vietnamese will fight the American aggressor, their manoeuvres and their subterfuges of all kinds. I have no doubt about it, and I think, as one of the greatest countries in this part of the world, it is our moral and political obligation to stand by the side of our brothers and sisters, so great as they are in their race, so great as they are in their culture, with so bright a future leading them to a historic victory. Again, I appeal to the Government to extend recognition to the Provisional Revolutionary Government and also upgrade our Mission in Hanoi to ambassadorial level.

Thank you.

5 P.M.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Sir, is there any time ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No, it is five already.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE ALLOTMENT OF TIME FOR GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Before we come to the half-an-hour discussion, I have to make an announcement. I have to inform Members that the Business Advisory Committee at its meeting held today, December 19, 1969, recommended allocation of time for Government Business as follows :—

Business	Time allotted
1. Further consideration of the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Bill, 1969, as passed by the Lok Sabha.	1 hr. in addition to the time already taken.