

Ministry of External Affairs to disengage themselves from the Home Ministry in this matter.

सरदार रघुवीर सिंह पंजहजारी (पंजाब) :

मैं मिनिस्टर साहब के बोलने से पहले एक बात अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ। मेरी अर्ज यह है कि जहाँ तक फौजदारी केसेज का ताल्लुक है जिसमें लड़ाई झगड़े हो जाते हैं, गिरफ्तारी हो जाती है, उस तरह के केसेज को इसमें न लिया जाय क्योंकि इस तरह के केसेज में लोग गुस्सा कर देते हैं जिससे इस तरह के केसेज हो जाते हैं और लोग पकड़े जाते हैं। आप लायर है और इस बात को अच्छी तरह से जानते होंगे कि स तरह के केसेज किस तरह से चलते हैं। इसलिए मैं फिर अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि जो फौजदारी के केसेज में सजायापता हैं, उनको न लिया जाय।

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, I am very thankful to Mr. Bhupesh Gupta for making some valuable suggestions and I assure him that the utmost consideration will be given to all the suggestions made by him by the Ministry of External Affairs.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN): The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

STATEMENT RE. THE WEST ASIAN CRISIS

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): Sir, the statement is a long one. If you permit I can lay it on the Table or I can read it out. I am entirely in your hands.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): How long will it take? We want to know the latest developments and I think we can sit a little more because this is exercising our mind.

SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA (Bihar): You will have your clarifications tomorrow. And you will get the copy of this.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: That will be tomorrow. Let it not be said that while the Arabs are fighting heroically we could not even sit for some more time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN): All right; let us hear that.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, yesterday, the Prime Minister made a statement in the House on the West Asian crisis. Since then, there have been some further developments which I would like to report to the House. The Prime Minister mentioned that in our endeavours towards restoration of peace we were making earnest efforts for a cease-fire and withdrawal of all armed forces to the positions they occupied on June 4.

On June 6, the Security Council unanimously adopted a simple cease-fire resolution as a first step. Evidently, in view of the gravity of the situation, a consensus emerged in the Council in favour of bringing about immediate cease-fire, leaving other steps to be taken later. But as no cease-fire took place as a result of this Resolution, at the request of the Soviet Union, an emergency meeting of the Security Council was called yesterday at which another resolution was unanimously adopted, demanding of the Governments concerned a cease-fire effective from 1.30 A.M. (IST) today. While firm information from the U.N. about the response to this resolution is awaited, Government of India earnestly hopes that all concerned will have already agreed to cease-fire.

Our Representative, while giving support to the resolution, stated that the cease-fire should be regarded only as a first step, although a most important first step. He added that India, alongwith some other members of the Council, would have preferred a reso-

[Shri Surendra Pal Singh.]
lution which along with cease-fire called upon the Governments concerned for a withdrawal of all armed forces to position prior to the outbreak of hostilities. Such a linking of the cease-fire with the withdrawal of forces would have been in accord with the practice which the Security Council had evolved in the past, based on the sound principle that the aggressor should not be permitted by the international community to enjoy the fruits of aggression.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: That is absolutely essential.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: This as a most important tenet in the interests of peace and indeed the only basis on which lasting peace can be built in the troubled areas of West Asia. This question on withdrawal, therefore, will have to be taken up further after cease-fire has been accepted by all concerned.

The Prime Minister, in her statement to the House had also referred to the wanton Israeli attacks on the Indian contingent with UNEF in Gaza. She had mentioned that she had sent a message to the U.N. Secretary General asking for effective steps to ensure the safety for our contingent and their early evacuation from the area of hostilities. The Prime Minister received a reply on June 7th from the Secretary General in which he expressed his shock at the death of Indian personnel with UNEF and wounding of others. He assured our Prime Minister that he and the Commander of UNEF are taking every possible step to ensure the safety of Indian and other contingents and are making all possible efforts to provide for their earliest evacuation from the area. He had added that it was a tragedy that these losses should have been suffered by the members of the Indian contingent when their operational functions had already ceased and when they were awaiting repatriation to their country. The Secretary-General addressed a formal protest to the Government of

Israel regarding "the tragic and unnecessary loss of life among the UNEF personnel" and asked the Government of Israel to "take urgent measures to ensure that there is no recurrence of such incidents." I should also say that when our Representative addressed the Council yesterday he asked for an unqualified guarantee for the safety and security of the UNEF personnel still in the area of the conflict.

6 P.M.

According to the latest reports available, nine were killed, twenty wounded and twelve are said to be missing. The House would like to know that the Government of India has lodged a strong protest with the Government of Israel regarding attacks on Indian personnel. In this protest we have condemned the utter disregard by the Israeli authorities of immunity which the U.N. personnel engaged in peace-keeping operations enjoy. Our protest further demands that, while the U.N. is making arrangements for the evacuation of our personnel, further barbarous attacks on Indian personnel of UNEF should cease forthwith.

The Government of India has also demanded that the Israeli Government pays adequate compensation to the families of the deceased and the wounded. Finally, the Government of India has reserved its right to take such further action in the matter as it may deem necessary according to international law and practice.

The question of immediate withdrawal of our contingent continues to cause us concern. As the House is aware, the United Nations is responsible for all arrangements for the repatriation and replacement of the Indian contingent as of all other contingents constituting UNEF as has been done during the last ten years and the cost borne by the United Nations. When the Secretary-General decided to withdraw UNEF from Gaza, we immediately got in touch with him and in accordance with a programme of phased withdrawal of

various contingents, an Indian ship was to leave on June 8th and repatriate the Indian contingent consisting of over 1,100 persons alongwith 400 tons of cargo on June 19th. India was willing for an earlier withdrawal, if necessary, by air, but the United Nations did not favour such an arrangement. In the meantime, suddenly hostilities broke out with unfortunate consequences to our personnel. Since then our Representative has been constantly in touch with the Secretary-General, who informed us that shipping companies around the world have been alerted to provide a ship immediately to withdraw the contingent from the Gaza beach to the nearest point of safety, namely, Cyprus, from where they could be brought to India by air or by sea, as may be practicable. In the meantime, we are holding our ship in readiness to sail, should it be required. The Secretary-General has also been requested today to make further efforts to arrange for evacuation of the Indian contingent by air from Gaza. The House may rest assured that the Government of India,

through the United Nations, will continue to do everything possible to ensure the safety of our personnel and to have them evacuated at the earliest possible opportunity.

I would like to mention one other matter. A number of Arab countries have broken off diplomatic relations with the United Kingdom and the United States. From among those who have taken this action, the UAR and Iraqi Governments have asked India to look after their interests in the United States, and the Syrian Government their interests in the United Kingdom. We have agreed to do so.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN): The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at four minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Friday, the 9th June, 1967.