

Government of India also arranged for counter broadcasts at Nathu La and these are continuing¹.

U. K. BASES IN INDIAN OCEAN

794. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA:
SHRI RAM CHANDER:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India proposes to urge the United Nations to take strong steps to prevent the United Kingdom from acquiring certain islands in the Indian Ocean belonging to Mauritius and Seychelles for conversion into military bases;

(b) if so, whether a communication to this effect has been sent to the United Nations; and

(c) what is the reaction of the United Nations thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA): (a) to (c) The matter was recently considered by a Sub-Committee of the U.N. Committee of 24. The following recommendations have been made:

"(i) The Administering Powers should once again be called upon to respect the territorial integrity of Mauritius and Seychelles and to return to these territories the islands detached from them.

(ii) The Special Committee should urge the Administering Power to refrain from any military activity in the territories, especially in the islands detached from Mauritius and Seychelles. Such activity would constitute an act of hostility against the people of Africa and Asia and in fact to International peace and security."

The Sub-Committee's report is expected to come up before the Special Committee some time in August.

CHINESE CONCENTRATION

795. SHRI D. THENGARI:
SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement made by the Minister of Health of the Government of U.P. on the 21st May, 1967 regarding the Chinese build-up on the U.P. borders; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Government have seen the press report of the statement of the Minister of Health of the U.P. Government. Government have also seen the statement of the Chief Minister of the U.P. Government stating that he had not received any intelligence report corroborating the U.P. Health Minister's statement. However, Government appreciate the anxiety of the U.P. Health Minister. Government are alive to the threat posed by the Chinese Forces across our borders and necessary steps to safeguard the security and territorial integrity of the country are constantly under review.

SAFETY OF INDIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL WORKING UNDER U.N.

796. SHRI V. V. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state what steps have been taken by Government to ensure the safety of Indian military personnel now working under the United Nations in Gaza?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA): The action taken by the Government of India in this regard has already been indicated in detail in this House by the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister on 7th and 9th June¹⁹⁶⁷ respectively.