

insofar as he can do it, should take steps to this end. Thereafter, Mr. Phizo did suggest issuing some kind of statement. That statement was not issued because we saw a draft of this and we did not approve of it. So, I do not think, so far as I know, that statement was issued.

**PRESENCE OF U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL
IN SOUTH-VIETNAM**

*157. **SHRI NIREN GHOSH:** Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to numerous press reports that at least 10,000 U.S. military personnel are present in South Vietnam;

(b) if so whether this is in consonance with the Geneva Agreement on Indo-China?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Government of India have seen press reports regarding the presence of U.S. military personnel in South Vietnam but have no information about the veracity of these press reports.

(b) The position of India in the International Commission in Vietnam is that of a member as well as the Chairman. As such, Government of India is not in a position to offer any opinion on the subject.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: May I know whether the presence of this huge military force in South Vietnam is meant for conducting war against the Vietnam people and whether or not these activities constitute a threat to peace in South East Asia?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: The position in South Vietnam is a very complicated one. Some little time ago the Commission issued an appraisal of the situation in which they pointed out that grave errors had been committed on both sides, all these warring factions both on behalf of the South and on behalf of the North. That

report was sent to the parties concerned.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: May I know whether the attention of the Government had been drawn to a statement by the Afro-Asian Solidarity Conference that the U.S. military personnel there are using gas against the people there? There were press reports also in this connection and the matter has also been reported to the International Supervisory Commission. What is the position in this respect? What is the truth or otherwise in this report? What measures have been taken to stop?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: As I mentioned in the body of the answer, it is very difficult for the Government of India to make any comments on these things because it is Member and Chairman of the Commission. When these matters are referred to the Commission, the Commission goes into them and submits a report to the Co-Chairmen. As the hon. Member suggests, if this matter has been referred to the Commission, the Commission will go into it and give its findings.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: As Chairman of the Commission India has an obligation to see that the Geneva Agreement and the terms thereof are implemented by both sides and the presence of U.S. troops would be in clear contravention of certain definite provisions of the Geneva Agreement. In view of that what steps India is taking in order to see that this contravention is eliminated?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: All that India can do or the Commission can do is to draw the attention of the two Co-Chairmen to every contravention. There have been contraventions on both sides and the attention of the Co-Chairmen had been drawn to these contraventions.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: The appraisal of the situation was made to the respective Governments, I hope,

and I would like to know if the reactions of these two Governments, both South Vietnam and North Vietnam, have been obtained by our Commission.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: The report has been made to the Co-Chairmen, not to the North and South Vietnam Governments.

*158. [The questioner (Shri Babubhai M. Chinai) was absent. For answer, vide col. 1350 infra.]

*159. [Transferred to the 2nd May, 1963.]

FILM ON INDIAN CASTE SYSTEM
EXHIBITED IN U.S.A.

*160. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a film on Indian caste system which was recently exhibited in the United States of America by the National Broadcasting Company; and

(b) if so, whether Government have lodged any protest with the United States Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) The Government are aware that a documentary film on India's caste system was recently shown to television in a National Broadcasting Company programme in the United States of America.

(b) Since the programme was produced by a private T.V. network of the U.S.A., the question of taking up the matter with the United States Government does not arise. The Embassy of India in Washington took up this matter with the N.B.C. and they have since agreed to stop further exhibition of the film.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: May I know if the exhibition of this film has actually been stopped? Have we re-

ceived confirmation from our Embassy in Washington?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: That is what I have said, Sir, in the answer.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: May I know whether the hon. Prime Minister has ascertained whether the film exaggerates the caste system or depicts the caste system as it exists today actually in a virulent form?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I have not seen the film but from the reports we have received it tends that way.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: Sir, I could not follow the reply given.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: . . . if the film was produced by the N.B.C. in India and if so, why was it allowed to be taken out of this country?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Yes, Sir. It was produced from material taken in India. It is customary for people producing such films in India to take them out but to show the rough cuts to our Embassies before it is exhibited there.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: If it was shown to the Embassy first before it was released, why did not the Embassy immediately object to it and why was it shown at all?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: If I had been allowed to complete, I would have said that this was not shown to the Embassy.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: In view of the fact that this is not the first time that the facilities given to the foreign film concerns have been abused in this manner—we had even a film on Gandhiji distorting his career and so on—may I know why in such cases the Government is not making necessary arrangements to see that films such as these when they are taken are first passed in our country before they start the undertaking?