

oil, sugar, kerosene, soap and paper. They are being examined and I hope, Sir, that very soon we will come out with some kind of proposals in respect of these articles also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Nanda, if you propose to finish in a couple of minutes, I would let you finish now. Otherwise, I would ask the Prime Minister to intervene now to make his statement.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: I think that will be better, Sir. I will take about ten minutes more.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: He can continue after the Prime Minister's statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. The Prime Minister.

PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT RE CHINESE RADIO BROADCAST ABOUT CEASE-FIRE

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in view of certain developments that have taken place in the last few hours, I would like to make a brief statement to the House.

The Government of the People's Republic of China, it appears through radio broadcasts, has announced that they will have a cease-fire from midnight of the 21-22 November, and will start withdrawing their forces from the positions they occupy, from the 1st December. This is a unilateral announcement. We have thus far received no official confirmation of it. As soon as we receive any official message from the Chinese Government, we shall give it full consideration. Till then I would not like to express any opinion in regard to the Chinese proposals.

Our position in regard to any negotiations continues to be what we have

previously stated, that is, that the position as it existed prior to September 8, 1962, shall be restored.

We shall continue our efforts to obtain aid from friendly countries and strengthen our country's defences and its economic potential. We would like to express again our gratitude to the many friendly countries who have offered us aid and sympathy and support during the time of distress. We have made it clear previously and we repeat it, that we have no desire for any territorial expansion in any direction and our aim is to live in peace and amity with our neighbours.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, in view of the Chinese offer, which could well be a deceptive offer, made to confuse world opinion, and lull India again into complacency, may I suggest that the decision to adjourn the present session of Parliament on the 23rd of this month be reversed, and that Parliament should be constantly in session till this new peace offensive is dealt with? Secondly, before arriving at a final decision with regard to the latest offer, may I submit that the Government should consult and should have exchange of views with all sections of public opinion so that the decision may be a national decision as such?

AN. HON. MEMBER: That will be a national decision.

SHRI GANGA SHARAN SINHA (Bihar): While associating myself with what my hon. friend here has said just now, I would like to say that some steps should be taken to see that this offer of the Chinese, about a cease-fire, does not create any lull or any relaxation in our efforts, either in the Government's efforts or in the public mind. Special efforts should be made for that and the necessary steps should be taken, because everybody is not in Delhi. We in Parliament are sitting before the Prime Minister and know, but many people outside may have an entirely different impression. So we should take special steps to let

[Shri Ganga Sharan Sinha.]

the country know what the Government is thinking and what the Prime Minister has said just now. This must be known to everybody in the land. Secondly, so far as our final decision is concerned, I would like to request the Prime Minister that before a final decision is taken, Parliament should be taken into confidence. At the same time, we would request him that in making a final decision, I would personally like—and I think all hon. Members also would like—that those who have come to our aid in hour of need should also be taken into confidence and I do hope our Prime Minister will keep these things in view.

I would also request the Prime Minister to continue this session of the Parliament so that it may keep up the morale of the country and everything will be much more sober and it will be useful from the point of view of the safety and solidarity of the country. Therefore, I suggest that this session of the Parliament should continue.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I have already stated, Sir, that I do not propose at this stage to give any full reaction to the Chinese proposals. We have not received them officially, not even unofficially, but long statements issued by the Chinese Government have been heard on the radio. They require full consideration, of course, before we can have a full picture. I do not know how many hon. Members have had the opportunity to listen to those long long statements. And in a matter of this kind, no government worth its name should without consideration come to a decision.

Now, that decision will have to be on the lines that we have always stated and they have been recently discussed in this House. The general principles are decided by Parliament and on them the Government functions. The hon. Member has said that we should, before we do what we do, have some kind of a public debate.

This is a very remarkable suggestion which will be quite unique in diplomatic history. In a matter of this kind, principles are laid down, but we cannot consider the notes that we send or receive in this public or semi-public way. It would be very unusual and possibly not very profitable.

As for the hon. Member's suggestion that we should continue our efforts, even in the statement I made just now, I said that we propose to do it, that we shall continue our efforts to obtain aid from friendly countries and strengthen our country's defences and the economic potential of this country. All that we propose to do fully.

The hon. Member also said something about consulting other countries. We are in close touch with many of our friends in other countries and we shall continue to remain in close touch. We do not propose to consult them about every decision we arrive at, every letter or note that we may send to another foreign country. But we are in close touch and we shall continue to be in close touch with them.

SHRI GANGA SHARAN SINHA: I did not mean that they should be consulted on every one of our letters and notes or on every matter. But in coming to a final conclusion they should be taken into confidence and we should consult them.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: There is one thing more. As for the suggestion that this House, that Parliament should continue to sit, that is entirely for the House and for you, Sir, to determine. But I would point out that it is not a question of two or three days' extra sitting, because we may come to a provisional conclusion and it may be finalised later on, after seeing what they do. They themselves say that they will withdraw and begin withdrawing on the 1st December. I do not know whether they are going to give effect to that or in what manner they are going to give effect to it. So it may be necessary for us

to see that. Apart from any provisional conclusions that we may arrive at after considering their proposals fully, it may be necessary for us to watch what they do. What I mean to say is that this is going to be not a thing which could be decided in two or three days. It may take a much longer period and in considering whether this House should continue to sit or not, that should be kept in mind.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA (Bihar): I would like to add one thing. The hon. the Prime Minister said that we have to watch for a few days how they are behaving. The ceasefire is going to start from midnight today.

SHRI GANGA SHARAN SINHA: They are saying so.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: They are saying that they are going to cease fire from midnight today, and that they will start withdrawal from the 1st of December. Now what are we going to do? That is a pertinent question. Are we also going to respond to the cease-fire by a cease-fire? (*Interruptions*). That would be a dangerous proposition—that is my submission—if we also respond to their cease-fire by our cease-fire.

AN HON. MEMBER: These things should not be discussed.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: They may not be discussed and I would not have raised this question but for what the Prime Minister said. Now he said—it was not for him to say so—that he would watch the situation. What does he mean by “watching”? Will he watch by ordering a cease-fire on our fronts and see whether they are withdrawing from the 1st of December or not? That is the point. (*Interruptions*).

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND (Madhya Pradesh): No Parliament will discuss these things.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I am not replying. The hon. Member should really be the Chief of the General Staff.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Uttar Pradesh): I want to draw the attention of the Prime Minister and of the Congress Benches that our voices were drowned many times in the past like this and we had to face some such unusual things in the past also. So we are apprehending that something unusual may happen in future also. This is why hon. Members want clarifications. If you do not give any clarification on these points we have nothing individually at stake. It is national prestige and national dignity for which we are so bothered, and in the past also, whenever we made a suggestion, the Treasury Benches and the Prime Minister laughed at it and it was said that it was infantile nonsense, it was a piece of buffoonery, and that these people talked irresponsibly and that they were warmongers. In the past all these adjectives we have taken upon ourselves, and even today we are ready to take any adjectives from the Prime Minister and from the Treasury Benches, but I shall very humbly request the Prime Minister and the Congress Benches to give more serious thought to the deceptive manner in which China has been hoodwinking us in the past.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): I have only one suggestion to make. May we, Sir, now return to Shri Gulzarilal Nanda's speech on 'Prices'.

SHRI ROHIT M. DAVE (Gujarat): Sir, we want to discuss it.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Are we to understand, Sir, that the decision to extend the session of Parliament, if there is a decision at all, will be taken by you or by the Government? Where do we stand in this matter? Why should there be any hitch on the part of the Government to extend the session by a few days? Nothing is going to be lost.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Prime Minister has pointed out that extending it by a few days would not have much sense. If you extend it, then you have to extend it for a fairly long time because the process is not a short process.

SHRI GANGA SHARAN SINHA: As you have suggested, I think personally I would like that it should continue for the time being. It is a very urgent matter and a very serious matter. At least we feel like that, and in these matters it must not be a decision of the Government only or by a majority vote of the House. Some consideration must be shown to our viewpoint also. We may be in a minority, but it is a national question and therefore I would like the Prime Minister to consider it. Even if we are all inconvenienced the House should continue and if later on we find that it will not be very useful, we are not going to be unreasonable. We will be in a co-operative mood and later on, if we find it necessary, we can have a liaison committee or something like that to keep the contact, but for the time being we feel that the House must continue.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL (Gujarat): I have not intervened or I have not said anything so far. We are entirely in agreement with the sentiments expressed by these two friends. We would like the House to continue. This is a normal time when Parliament sits. If it is inconvenient for the Government or it comes in the way of their work, we can sit for a shorter period. But Parliament should continue, Sir. That is our view.

SHRI GANGA SHARAN SINHA: I can assure you, Sir; we have been always co-operating in this matter and in future also the Prime Minister will have all our co-operation in this matter. It is not a party question. It is a national question and from the national point of view, as we have been in a co-operative mood all these

days, I assure you, Sir, we will be in a co-operative mood in future also. But the House must be in session.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: May I point out, Sir, that when we called this Session, it was to meet up to—I forget—11th of December, thereabouts. It was not Government's suggestion; it was not at Government's instance that we have decided to shorten the Session, but large numbers of hon. Members of this House and the other House and Members of the Opposition chiefly laid great stress on its being shortened. And we agreed in spite of a lot of Government work perhaps suffering. I do not wish to come in the way. I merely pointed out that thing and they did that, I may say respectfully. rightly because they wanted to go back to their constituencies and work for this very emergency that has arisen. Now, I am entirely in your hands and those of the House. Government is not going to come in the way of the session being extended. It is a matter also in which perhaps you would think it desirable to consult the Speaker because whatever is done should be done for both Houses, not for a single House. What I pointed out was that probably, as you yourself were pleased to say, the extension of the House by a few days at this end will probably not help. It had been almost decided previously that the Houses should be reconvened early in December or middle of December. You can consider which is most suitable and decide. Government will gladly agree.

SHRI G. MURAHARI (Uttar Pradesh): I would like to make a request to the Prime Minister. He said that we would continue to defend our territory. I would like him to modify his statement and say that we would not only continue to defend but also recover our territory.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: That is implied.

SHRI K. SANTHANAM (Madras): No reply is necessary.

SHRI GANGA SHARAN SINHA: The Prime Minister has said that he has not examined this proposal. He has not gone into the merits of it. As the Prime Minister has said that he has not examined the proposal, we do not want to enter into the merits just now. We have not discussed that point and we would not like this House to be adjourned while we are still in doubt about the news and the whole thing has yet to be discussed on merits.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Prime Minister has made it quite clear that if the House wants to continue the Government would have no objection to it. Therefore, it is for the two Houses of Parliament to consult members of the various groups and come to a decision.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: An hon. Member in the back bench said something about defending and offensive. I do not quite understand what he is referring to.

What I said was that we shall continue our efforts to obtain aid from friendly countries and strengthen the country's defences and its economic potential. I do not know what else he wants us to do.

SHRI G. MURAHARI: Try to recover our territory, not only defend.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That does not come in this context.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I am sorry I cannot be more explicit.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does the Prime Minister want to say something about the Defence Minister?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I have not been able to trace him. He is not here. I wanted to introduce him to you and to the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Some other time.

MOTION RE MEASURES FOR MAINTAINING PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES—continued.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: I shall say only a few words and then conclude. Some hon. Members had their own suggestions in regard to what more can be done in order to achieve effective stabilisation of the price level. One was about the consumer stores.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Nanda, I am sorry to interrupt you but I would very much like you to finish by the lunch hour.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: I have already said, Sir, that I shall say only a few words.

Some hon. Members asked why the consumer stores were to be confined only to big cities and towns and not extended to the villages. The answer is that for the villages, there are service co-operatives which will be utilised for this purpose. In addition to fair price shops, co-operative agency will be employed in order that there is no difficulty experienced. At any rate, arrangements exist for dealing with any adverse circumstances in this respect in the rural areas. I am glad that hon. Members are keen about effective enforcement of measures against hoarders and profiteers. But I do not think it will be necessary to take very drastic measures because the temper of the people, the sense of urgency and the patriotic urge are all important safeguards. I believe, in addition to all these, moral and social sanctions will also play their part. If at all it becomes necessary to bring into operation the powers which we have got, under the Defence of India Ordinance, there will be no hesitation. I have done, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gupta, would you be able to finish before lunch hour?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I only want a few minutes, Sir.