

CRITICISM OF LAOS COMMISSION'S DECISIONS BY CONSUL GENERAL OF NORTH VIETNAM

*153. **SHRI A. C. GILBERT:** Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that speeches were exchanged between the Consul General of North Vietnam in India and the representatives of seven public organisations in the premises of the Consulate on 22nd July, 1961 in which the majority decisions of the International Commission on Laos, of which India is the Chairman, were criticised; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above is in the affirmative, whether the Consul General's action is in accordance with the diplomatic conventions and whether Government have taken any steps in this connection?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) Yes. The speeches delivered on this occasion appear to have been in continuation of the North Vietnam Campaign against a majority decision of the International Commission on Vietnam and not on Laos, to investigate complaints concerning acts alleged to be abetted by one party against the other which may be detrimental to the peace and security of Vietnam.

(b) The Consul General's action does not fit in with the diplomatic conventions.

The Consul-General of North Vietnam was sent for in connection with the propaganda that the Consulate General was making of late, and told that we expected all diplomatic missions in our country not to indulge in any propaganda against the Government of India and also strictly to observe the rule that they should not openly be critical of Governments or countries with which we have friendly relations.

SHRI A. C. GILBERT: Will the Government circularise all the Embassies

stating that they would not like controversial activities by the diplomatic officials in Bharat?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: No, Sir. It is not done. We approach them and inform them of our opinion when any particular occasion arises.

NEUTRALITY OF LAOS

*154. **SHRI A. C. GILBERT:** Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made some proposals to the Royal Government of Laos about Laotian neutrality and if so, what are those proposals; and

(b) how the Royal Government of Laos has reacted to the Indian proposals?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) and (b) The Government of India have made no proposals to the Royal Governments of Laos on Laotian neutrality or on any matters relating to the present conflict in Laos. When active civil war broke out in Laos in December last, the Government of India approached the two Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference (United Kingdom and Soviet Union) with a proposal that the International Control Commission should be re-convened. Eventually, after protracted negotiations between the Co-Chairmen, a Conference of 14 nations was convened in Geneva, to attempt to find a solution of the Laotian crisis; and the International Control Commission, consisting of Canada, India and Poland, was re-convened and sent to Vientiane on the authority of the Co-Chairmen, to supervise the cessation of hostilities, which had been agreed to by the conflicting factions in Laos.

The Conference in Geneva is proceeding with its deliberations. India is participating in these deliberations. Certain proposals have been placed before the Geneva Conference by the Indian delegation, which together with