

February 15, 1968

Rajya Sabha Q&A on the Progression of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

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Summary:

Transcript of questions and answers between members of the Rajya Sabha and the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri B. R. Bhagat, on the progress that has been made in the finalization of the draft of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

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SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: Sir, I seek your protection. Here is a newspaper report that I have with me in which it is prominently published—that the paper is *Hindustan Times*—that Ambassador Chester Bowles has been advised to explain to the Indian Government the circumstances and the considerations which are pushing Washington to the hard decision to allow its armed forces to cross the Cambodian border in hot pursuit of the Vietcong guerillas. Also it is widely reported that Mr. Chester Bowles had called on the Indian Government and said that action must be taken by it as Chairman of the I.C.C.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: He has reported to the Chairman. What he has quoted and what he has asked is a different matter. So far as the question of hot pursuit which he has mentioned is concerned. They have not raised it with us.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Is it not a fact that the Cambodian territory has been violated both by America and by the Vietcong? In order to prevent any conflagration taking place in Cambodia is it not the duty of the International Control Commission to see that such violations do not occur and that effective steps are taken to prevent them? What steps do Government propose?

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: Sir, on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We generally do not raise points of order in question Hour unless it is very extraordinary.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: As far as this question of the infiltration of the Viet Cong is concerned, the Cambodian Government has already said that no Viet Cong infiltrators are there. Is it in order for him to raise the question of the integrity and sovereignty of another State?

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Sir, he has not answered my question.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: These are allegations made by different sides. Unless the Control Commission investigates them and they decide to do it, we cannot say that they are facts. Earlier, and allegation was made in one case and the Control Commission investigated it and they found that there was no truth in that allegation. But that was an individual incident.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY

***70. PROF. SHANTILAL KOTHARI:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made in the finalisation of the draft of the non-proliferation treaty; and

(b) by when it is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) On January 18, 1968, the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. have separately presented to the E.N.D.C. in Geneva revised identical drafts of a treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

(b) The revised drafts are now being considered by the E.N.D.C. which is required to submit its report to the U.N. General Assembly on or before March 15, 1968. Thereafter the General Assembly will consider the draft treaty. It is not possible to say at present when it is likely to be finalised.

AWARD OF NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL

***71. SHRI N. K. BHATT:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: