

(c) what immediate action is being contemplated by the Government of India so that no other nation, whether friendly or hostile to India can establish its own base in the Indian Ocean and the security of our country or any other country in the area is not endangered ?]

वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री(श्री बी० आर० भगत) : (क) 16, जनवरी, 1968 को ब्रिटेन के प्रधान मंत्री ने हाउस आफ कामन्स में घोषणा की थी कि ब्रिटेन ने 1971 तक स्वेज़ के पूर्व में वर्तमान सैनिक दबाव को हटाने का निर्णय कर लिया है। इससे पहले उन्होंने यह भी घोषणा की थी कि अल्डब्रा द्वीप का विकास करने की योजनाओं को छोड़ दिया गया है।

(ख) और (ग) हम तो इस बात में विश्वास करते हैं कि इस क्षेत्र के देशों की सुरक्षा अंततः उनकी अपनी राष्ट्रीय शक्ति पर और प्रभुसत्ता प्राप्त तथा स्वतंत्र राज्यों के रूप में एक-दूसरे के स्वेच्छ या सहयोग पर ही निर्भर होनी चाहिए।

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) On 16th January, 1968 the British Prime Minister announced in the House of Commons that Britain had decided to withdraw its existing military presence east of Suez by 1971. He had also announced earlier that plans to develop Aldabra island had been given up.

(b) and (c) We believe that the security of the countries in the region must rest ultimately on their own national strength, and on their willing cooperation between one another as Sovereign independent States.]

HANGING OF AFRICANS IN RHODESIA

*107 SHRI C. ACHUTHA MEON : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the reported statement of Zimbabwe African National Union to the effect that the Africans are still being hanged secretly in Rhodesia;

†] English translation.

(b) whether Government have made, any inquiries in this connection and if so, with what result; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to check such incidents ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) to (c) Although Government are not aware of any such statement by the Zimbabwe African National Union, they have seen press reports about such secret hangings of Africans in Rhodesia. Government would naturally view such happenings with horror and condemn such atrocities. Their representatives have been consistently demanding the early end of the illegal minority regime of Rhodesia and drawing world's attention to its atrocities.

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY

*108. SHRI K. DAMODARAN :

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON :

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Governments of U. S. A. and the U. S. S. R. have further revised the draft treaty on nuclear non-proliferation;

(b) if so, what are the latest changes made in the draft; and

(c) what is India's attitude to the revised draft treaty ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The revised text of the Treaty is placed on the Table of the House. The additions are underlined and the deletions are within brackets. [See Appendix LXV, Annexure No. 17.]

(c) These changes were not of substance, and our attitude to the Treaty as a whole remains the same.

*109. [For answer vide cols. supra.]

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS MADE BY THE CANTONMENT BOARDS

*110. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the Cantonment Boards are making appointments and promotions against the directions contained in para 23 of the