

Removing Lacunae In Constitution

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED

NEW DELHI, April 8. FIVE major amendments relating to fundamental rights in the Constitution are proposed to be made by the Government of India. These amendments, when finalised, are expected to be circulated to Chief Ministers of various States to elicit their opinion.

The amendments proposed are in respect of Article 14 guaranteeing equality before law, Article 15 prohibiting discrimination on grounds of religion, Article 19 guaranteeing certain personal rights of the citizen, such as freedom of speech, Article 31 relating to compulsory acquisition of private property and Article 32 regarding the right to move the Supreme Court for the enforcement of fundamental rights.

A dozen other amendments to various articles are also proposed in order to remove certain ambiguities which the working of the Constitution has revealed.

JUDICIAL INTERPRETATION

Amendments to the Constitution became necessary as judicial interpretations of fundamental rights created difficulties in the execution of the policy of Government with particular reference to nationalisation or State participation in industries and the abolition of zamindari.

Two of the amendments proposed in the Bill relate to nationalisation and State ventures and the abolition of zamindari. In regard to the first, the result of interpretations of the Allahabad and Bombay High Courts over the State road transport services, the question has arisen whether Article 14 assuring the citizen of equality before the law can be interpreted to affect legislation to promote nationalisation.

Zamindari legislation in various States has been challenged in courts on the ground that the acquisition is not for any public purpose and hence is *ultra vires*. It is suggested that it will be expedient to amend the Article so as to give complete protection to the recent Zamindari Abolition Acts already passed by certain States and similar laws which may be enacted in future.

The Article is also to be so drafted as to eliminate wasteful and dilatory litigation. The proposed amendment, it is suggested, should be of a retrospective character.

The amendments will be introduced as an amending Bill to the Constitution and are expected to be passed before Parliament adjourns towards the end of May.—P.T.I.

DEFENCE WORKERS TO STRIKE TODAY

Poona Union's Decision

From Our Staff Correspondent POONA, April 8: The general strike of civilian employees of the Defence establishments in Poona, due to begin at 7 a.m. tomorrow, would involve 15,000 men, it was stated today. A spokesman of the Socialist-led Union of Employees said that there would be peaceful picketing at the establishments and the railway station. The strike is a mark of protest against the 'retrenchment policy' in the Defence establishments of the Government of India.

Mr. S. M. Joshi, General Secretary of the Federation of Defence Services Civilian Employees' Unions, said tonight that the strike was likely to be prolonged. He said that the Ministry of the Government of India thought it fit to intervene. He appealed to the Ministry to appoint a conciliation board under the Trade Disputes Act to go into the grievances of employees.

The strike, it was stated, would affect seven Defence establishments at Kharkee, Dehu Road and Talegaon, but would not involve the Ordnance Factory, the High Explosives Factory and the I.E.M.E. Workshop. Those employed in essential services, such as the Fire Brigade, watch and ward and conservancy, were similarly excluded from joining the strike.

I. A. F. Appointments

NEW DELHI, April 8: Group Captain C. L. Mehta, Director of Personnel, Air H.Q., has taken over command of the I.A.F. Station, New Delhi. Group Captain K. L. Bhatia, who till recently commanded the I.A.F. Station, Agri, succeeds him. Wing Commander S. P. Shahi, who has been in command of the I.A.F. Station, New Delhi, for nearly a year, has become Provost Marshal of the I.A.F.

All these appointments take effect from April 9.—P.T.I.

Congress President

From Our Special Representative NEW DELHI, April 8: The Congress President, Mr. Purushottamdas Tandon, will leave New Delhi by air tomorrow for Bangalore to attend the political situation there. He will thereafter proceed to Trivandrum to have discussions with leaders of the Travancore-Cochin Union Congress.

LATE NEWS

INDEPENDENTS TRIUMPH NEW DELHI, April 8: Pakistan Independents, Karachi, won the coveted Dohi Spring Hockey Festival trophy by narrowly beating Delhi's Khalsa Blues by a solitary goal, scored late in the first half today.—P.T.I.

SOVIET PROTEST TO U.S. COMMANDANT

BERLIN, April 8: S. A. Deutscher, Soviet representative to the Soviet Central Commission for Germany, has protested to the U.S. Commandant here against 'forbidden military experiments' in the Western sectors.—P.T.I.-Reuter.

MARTIAL LAW IN EGYPT

CAIRO, April 8: The Egyptian Cabinet decided today to maintain martial law in the Sinai Peninsula, the Suez Canal Zone, and the Western Desert Zone, as well as ports and airports.—P.T.I.-Reuter.

NEW NATIONALIST TROOPS

FORT ATKINSON (Wisconsin), April 8: "It is high treason to refuse Gen. MacArthur's permission to form the Nationalist troops," declared Mr. Joseph McCarthy, Republican Senator of Wisconsin, here on Saturday, at a Chamber of Commerce Dinner. He added that the war in Korea could be won if Gen. MacArthur's troops were bound by the State Department were united.—P.T.I.-Reuter.

SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISPUTE

TEL AVIV, April 8: An Israeli Army spokesman said that exploratory talks were being held with the U.N. acting Chief of Staff, Col. Bennett de Ridder of Belgium, on the possibility of convening the Syrian-Israeli Mixed Armistice Commission soon.—P.T.I.-Reuter.

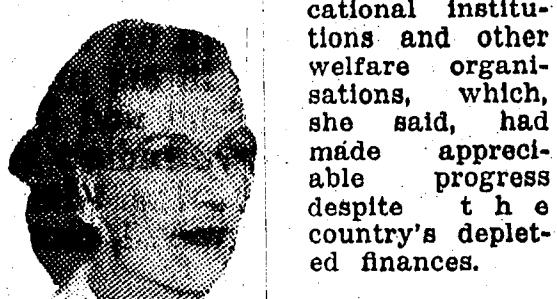
KILLED IN PLANE CRASH

CHARLESTON (West Virginia), April 8: Nineteen American Air Force men on their way to a plane crash killed today when the plane crashed and exploded near here. Two were injured.—P.T.I.-Reuter.

Rehabilitation Of Refugees

"GOOD PROGRESS"

India had made remarkable progress in the rehabilitation of refugees, said Lady Mountbatten in an interview in Bombay on Saturday prior to her departure for London by an Air-India International plane on Saturday.



Lady Mountbatten, who visited refugee camps, hospitals, educational institutions and other welfare organisations, which she said had made appreciable progress despite the country's depleted finances.

Lady Mountbatten also noted considerable improvement in welfare services in Burma which she visited recently. She will launch the new British cruiser, "the Duchess," in home waters on Monday on account of which, she remarked, "I regret to leave India too soon."

Centre's Loan To Bombay

NEW DELHI, April 8: Bombay has been granted a loan of Rs. 12 lakhs by the Central Government's Ministry for Rehabilitation for the purpose of aid to displaced persons.

Out of this, the Bombay Government is expected to spend Rs. 90 lakhs on housing, Rs. 12 lakhs on loans to displaced persons for setting them up in business or industry, and nearly seven lakhs of rupees for the rehabilitation of rural displaced persons.

Rupees five lakhs have also been granted to Madhya Bharat for housing while Delhi is granted Rs. 15,000 which is to be disbursed in educational loans to displaced persons.—P.T.I.

STUDY TOUR OF RUSSIA

Indians Invited

NAGPUR, April 8: Twenty-four Indians have been invited for the first time by the U.S.S.R. Society for cultural relations with foreign countries (V.O.K.S.) and the Union of Soviet Writers to undertake a study tour of Russia in order to promote cultural relations between the two countries.

M. Stepan N. Shundenko, First Secretary of the Soviet Embassy and representative of the V.O.K.S. in India, said here today that ten Indian writers and journalists had been invited by the Union of Soviet Writers and among the 14 invited by the V.O.K.S. were professors, educationalists, scientists, engineers and social workers.

The two Soviet organisations would meet all expenses during their four or five weeks' tour of the Soviet Union, he said.

It is learnt here that among the Indian scientists invited are Dr. H. J. Bhabha and Dr. S. S. Bhatnagar.—P.T.I.

SECRET PRISONS IN WEST GERMANY

British Judge's Dismay

DUSSELDORF, April 8: A British High Court judge said here on Friday that he was 'dismayed' at learning there were secret prisons on this side of the Iron Curtain.

The judge, Sir Owen Corrie, was hearing a spy case in which Albert Loche, a 27-year-old German, was sent to prison for two years for trying to obtain a British officer's passport. The British Prosecutor, Mr. E. Bend, said that Loche had not been brought before a judge until January 15 though he was arrested by British intelligence officers on November 3, last year.

Loche, he alleged, had been held in custody under a secret order issued by the last High Commissioner, General Sir Brian Robertson.

Mr. Bend alleged that "secret" British prisons had existed in West Germany since the end of the war. Intelligence officers were fraudulently held longer than is allowed under normal procedure.

The judge remarked that he had "never heard of things like that although he had sat on the Bench for 30 years."—P.T.I.-Reuter.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur

From Our Special Representative NEW DELHI, April 8: India's Health Minister, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, is proceeding to Geneva early next month to preside over the World Health Organisation which is meeting there from May 7.

Washington Report On Atomic Espionage

DR. FUCHS "MOST DAMAGING SPY IN ALL HISTORY"

WASHINGTON, April 8. THE atom-scientist, Dr. Klaus Fuchs, was "the most damaging spy in all history" the U. S. House Atomic Energy Committee declared today.

In a report titled "atomic espionage" the Committee said that Fuchs alone had accomplished greater damage than any other spy not only in the history of the United States but in the history of all nations.

The report added that the combined activities of Dr. Fuchs, Prof. Bruno Pontecorvo, Dr. Allan Nunn May and David Green-Glass "may have advanced the Soviet atomic energy programme by 18 months at least."

Prof. Pontecorvo, Italian-born scientist, was employed at a British atomic research station. Last autumn he went to Europe with his family for a holiday and did not return.

Dr. Allan Nunn May, British scientist and London University lecturer, was convicted in the Canadian espionage trials of 1946.

David Greenglass, 29-year-old ex-Army sergeant who had worked on the atomic bomb project at Los Alamos, New Mexico, confessed that he had passed atomic data to the Soviet Union.

Today's report said: "If war should come, Russia's ability to mount an atomic offensive against the West will be greatly increased by reason of these four men."

Suggesting an explanation for the actions of the four men, the Senate Committee said: "It is evident that a lack of moral standards, combined with an overwhelming and childlike arrangement induced by exposure to Communist recruiting techniques during early manhood—characteristics the atomic spy," the report declared.—P.T.I.-Reuter.

REVITALISATION OF INDIAN CULTURE

Tribute To Mr. Sastri

From Our Staff Correspondent MADRAS, April 8: "The history of the Congress for nearly 30 or 35 years of its existence before the advent of Gandhi in the history of the party, was the history of a man who built up that organisation, and Mr. Srinivasa Sastri is one of them," declared Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the President, unveiling a portrait of the late Mr. Sastri at the Mysore Sanskrit College this morning.

Recounting the varied achievements of Mr. Sastri, Dr. Prasad said that he was not only a great politician but also an apostle of culture.

The need for constructive work to improve the lot of the common man was stressed here by Dr. Prasad who addressed the Muslim Education Association of Southern India. It was wrong to think that the time had come for India to enjoy the fruits of independence, India needed not only politicians but also sincere social men to serve the common man.

"We want servants of men not servants of Hindus, Parsis or Muslims," he said.

Todas from the Nilgiris were prominent among those who met the President. They declared that they were not only a great politician but also an apostle of culture.

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JAPANESE PEACE TREATY DRAFT

U. S. To Suggest Changes

WASHINGTON, April 7: A decision to recommend some changes and additions to the draft of a Japanese peace treaty recently circulated to other interested Governments was announced yesterday by the State Department.

Mr. McDermott, State Department spokesman, said that the first tentative draft, although reflecting the type of treaty which Mr. Dulles had already described publicly, did not necessarily reflect the final view of the United States.

Referring to a Washington press report purporting to be a text of the American draft treaty, he said that the U.S. had not made the document public and had no intention to do so.

The Washington press report said the U.S. had warned Russia to sign the American drafted treaty or risk repudiation of the Yalta agreement awarding the Kurile Islands and Sakhalin to Russia.—P.T.I.-Reuter.

PERMITS TO VISIT AILING RELATIVES

Pakistani Charge Denied

NEW DELHI, April 8: Official circles here today refuted a charge that the Government of India had refused to grant permits to Pakistani relatives to visit ailing relatives in India.

These sources expressed surprise at the further statement by Pakistan's Minister of Interior that the Government of India had since given an assurance to the Pakistani Government that such certificates were not now being demanded.

They also stated that restrictions imposed by Pakistan itself against Indian Muslims wanting to see their relatives in Pakistan, was operating very harshly.—P.T.I.

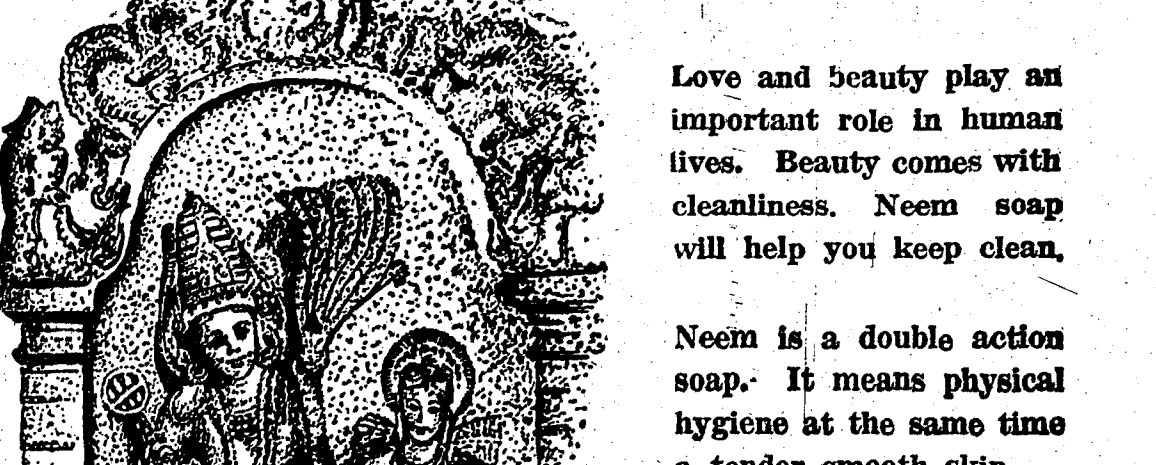
AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' TALKS

"Final Act" Signed

WASHINGTON, April 8: The 21 American Foreign Ministers yesterday signed the "Final Act" embodying 29 resolutions and declarations adopted during their meeting here lasting two weeks.

The ceremony followed a brief meeting of the Council of the Organisation of American States, a permanent co-operative body of the American Republics.

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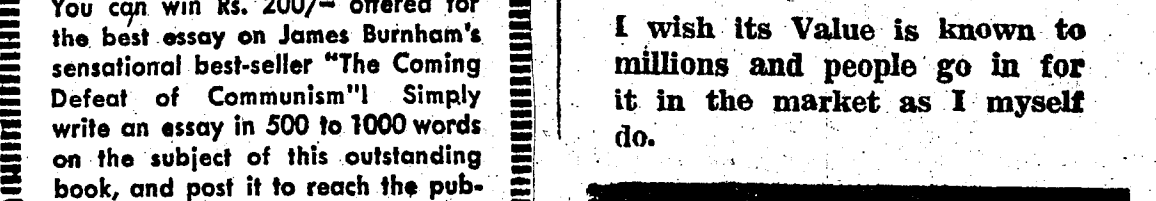
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PUBLIC OPINION

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