

Amendment To India's Draft Constitution

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "REPUBLIC" & "STATE": DR. AMBEDKAR'S VIEW

NEW DELHI, April 16.

THE object of his amendment to the preamble of the Draft Constitution of India was explained by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution.

In a statement, Dr. Ambedkar said that the amendment which he had tabled and by which he sought to substitute the words "sovereign independent State" for the words "sovereign independent Republic" in the preamble of the draft constitution "was to see that nothing in the constitution brings about an automatic and instantaneous severance between India and the British Commonwealth of Nations."

It was to avoid this, he added, that he had proposed by his amendment to replace the word "Republic" by the word "State" which was a neutral term.

Dr. Ambedkar said: "Most people are by now aware of the amendment to the preamble of the Draft Constitution which I have tabled. In this connection, a news agency has put out a story which has created a situation that required to be cleared up. It has put forth two propositions: That my amendment is unnecessary, and that a very large body of Congressmen are opposed to my amendment. With the second proposition, I am not at present concerned. I will deal with it when the time for it arrives. It is the first proposition which I wish to deal with at the moment."

OBJECT OF AMENDMENT

"The object of my amendment is to see that nothing in the constitution brings about an automatic and instantaneous severance between India and the British Commonwealth of Nations. I think the use of the word 'Republic' has, or may have, such an effect. It is to avoid this that I have proposed, by my amendment, to replace the word 'Republic' by the word 'State' which is a neutral term. The news agency has tried to bring my amendment into ridicule by saying that it is unnecessary and that the use of the term 'Republic' need not have the effect, I fear it might have because, notwithstanding the fact that the word 'Republic' occurs in the constitution of Ireland and South Africa they continue to be members of the British Commonwealth."

"I am surprised at the audacity of this assertion by the news agency that the word 'Republic' occurs in the constitution of Ireland and South Africa. Whether it has done it on its own authority or on the authority of a constitutional lawyer I am unable to say. Whatever be the case, there is not the slightest doubt that it is a completely erroneous statement and quite contrary to the facts as they are."

STATUTE OF WESTMINSTER

"Those who have studied the Statute of Westminster will know that it conferred what is called Dominion Status on six colonies namely, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Irish Free State and Newfoundland. By the same Statute the colonies called Dominions obtained the power to alter their own constitutions. Canada, Australia and New Zealand refused to accept the power to alter their own constitution except in accordance with the provisions contained in their constitutions and this fact has been set out in Sections 7 and 8 of the Statute of Westminster. Newfoundland later on surrendered its status as a Dominion and reverted to the position of a colony."

"The two Dominions which got the powers to amend their constitution under the Statute of Westminster are Ireland and South Africa. Both of them exercised this power and asked their respective Parliaments to pass statutes defining their status. South Africa by the Statute of the Union Act, 1934, and Ireland by her new constitution framed in 1937. In neither of these Acts the word 'Republic' occurs. On the other

hand, the words used in the South African Act are 'sovereign independent State' and those used in the Irish Act are 'sovereign independent State'."

"I have taken these very words which occur in the South African and Irish constitution for my amendment. I may add that it is the existence of these words in their constitutions which have enabled courts to hold that South Africa and Ireland are still members of the British Commonwealth. From this, it will be seen that the status of sovereign independent State is not incompatible with membership of the Commonwealth. But the status of a Republic is, for the simple reason that allegiance to a common King is the only link that holds the members of the Commonwealth. Republic is incompatible with the allegiance to a King and has, therefore, the effect of terminating straightaway India's membership of the Commonwealth."

BOMBAY EXHIBITION OF PHOTOS

Types Of U. S. Planes

An exhibition of a collection of Kodachrome reproductions of various types of aeroplanes, used for military and civilian purposes in the U. S. was declared open by Mr. G. Edward Clark, Public Affairs Officer of the American Consulate General, Bombay, at the Salon of the Photographic Society of India on Friday.

Mr. Y. M. Purav, Secretary of the Society, introduced Mr. Clark to the large gathering present to witness the opening of the exhibition.

Before the function commenced the gathering stood in silence for two minutes as a mark of respect to the memory of Sir Homi Mehta, a former President of the Society, who died in an air crash at Shannon, Eire, on Thursday.

Mr. Clark said the full-colour reproductions, 34 in all, were lent by the U. S. Information Service to acquaint the public with the progress made in aviation. The photographs, whose enlargements were on view, were taken not only to show the various types of aircraft now being produced, but also to interpret the art of colour photography as developed in the States.

The exhibition will remain open to visitors from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on week days till April 23.

BAGALKOT CEMENT FACTORY

Government Approval

The Government of Bombay have sanctioned the proposals of Dr. A. G. Tendulkar for the establishment of a cement factory at Bagalkot in Bijapur district.

This, it is stated, is in accord with the Government of India's plan for the development of cement industry in the country. The proposed factory is said to be of 300,000 ton capacity.

The Government have decided to guarantee three per cent. minimum dividend on the entire one-crore share capital of the proposed factory for a period of first five years, exercising control over the affairs of the corporation through three of its directors on the board.

The site chosen for the setting up of the factory is said to be rich in limestone and the details of the working of the cement factory have already been gone through.—A.P.I.

Delhi Arms Haul

NEW DELHI, April 16: Twenty-five live bombs (Mills type hand grenades) and about 400 rifle cartridges of .303 and 12 bores were recovered by the Delhi police near the Nizam-ud-Din railway station (three miles from New Delhi) underneath a bush.

The police suspect that these explosives were thrown there by some organisations which indulged in communal frenzy immediately after the partition of the country.—A.P.I.

Pandit Ram Chandra Kak

SRINAGAR, April 15: It is understood that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir have appointed a Special Magistrate to investigate the charges brought against Pandit Ram Chandra Kak, the former Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir State. An inquiry commission had been set up to go into the various charges against the ex-Premier by Government prior to the establishment of the emergency administration of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah.—A.P.I.

"Espionage Charge False"

WASHINGTON, April 15: The American Ambassador to Moscow, Mr. Walter Bedell Smith, told American journalists in Moscow today that he had been assured by Mr. Magidoff that the charges against him of espionage were false.

General F. R. R. Bucher

POONA, April 15: General F. R. R. Bucher, Commander-in-Chief, India, arrived in Poona yesterday on a tour of the southern command. He was accompanied by Mrs Bucher.—A. P. I.

E. R. P. ADMINISTRATOR



Mr. Paul G. Hoffman (left) takes the oath of office on his appointment as Administrator of the American Foreign Recovery programme. Mr. Fred M. Vinson, the Chief Justice, administers the oath in the presence of President Truman in (centre) and Cabinet members.

Berlin Plane Crash Inquiry Completed

NO CO-OPERATION BY RUSSIANS

BERLIN, April 16.

THE British Commission today completed its inquiries into the causes of the Viking-Yak air collision over Berlin on April 5 and will issue an official statement later.

A Staff Captain from the Soviet airport at Dallgow arrived two and a half hours late at the "rendezvous" to examine the remains of the Yak fighter but the British representatives, who had waited almost an hour, had already left.

Wing sections of the fighter and the British airliner were taken to the Allied Control authority building where the Commission was holding its inquiry. The Russians have not so far attended the inquiry.

The Red Army's German language newspaper, "Tregliche Rundschau," today accused the British members of the Anglo-Soviet Inquiry Commission on the Viking-Yak crash of "artificially wrecking the work of the Joint Commission because they feared the truth."

The British members have carried on alone since the Russians failed to turn up last Wednesday.

Today's report issued by the official Soviet News Agency said that the Russian members would participate in the Commission's work provided that "factual and documentary evidence" such as the position of the crashed planes, their instrument readings and log entries were examined before witnesses were heard.—Reuter.

CURRENCY REFORM IN GERMANY

Russian Plans

BERLIN, April 15: The Soviet military authorities in Germany have received orders from Moscow to go ahead with detailed plans for separate currency reform in Eastern Germany, it was learned here today.

German circles in close touch with both the German administrative organ and Russian control officials said the Russian plan would come into effect at the end of May or early in June.

Details of the plan are not yet known, but it is understood that it follows generally the proposals made by the Russians when quadripartite currency reform still seemed possible. The "interests of the working class" will however receive special consideration in the Soviet scheme, which will "soak" the rich by cutting into large bank deposits while leaving small savings relatively unaffected.

The introduction of new currency in the Eastern Zone may coincide with increased direct and indirect Russian pressure on the Western Allies to leave Berlin. At the moment when the change-over is announced, traffic between the Western and the Soviet Zones is expected to be totally suspended for a few days at least.

In Berlin itself, the Soviet sector will be included in the change-over, but the three Western sectors will be excluded, it was learned. The city will thus be cut in two and economic life may be at a standstill for a short time.

Expulsion From U.S. Zone

FRANKFURT

April 15: Fifteen members of two Hungarian missions were ordered to leave the United States zone of Germany within 48 hours.

An army announcement said the expulsions were ordered by General Lucius Clay, American Military Governor, because no satisfactory explanation had been given for an incident involving an American repatriation train in Hungary in January when Hungarian authorities had permitted Soviet troops to plunder the train.—U.P.A.

Hungary's United Front

BUDAPEST

April 15: All political parties in the present Government coalition—Communists, Socialists, Small-holders and National Peasants—have approved the formation of a United Independence Front, it was learned here.

It is expected here that the Radicals and the Bourgeois Democrats, who have hitherto been in opposition, will also join in.—Reuter.

Anti-"Red" Trend In Italy

FINAL APPEAL TO VOTERS

ROME, April 16: With 330,000 armed police and troops standing by all over Italy, Left and Right leaders today whipped up the fervour of their supporters in the closing hours of the Italian election campaign, ending at midnight tonight.

The voting will take place on Sunday.

Mobile carabinieri were ordered to make a show of strength in the densely populated areas, in the interests of law and order.

Spectacular rises on the Italian stock exchange today were interpreted as showing confidence in anti-Communist parties while a newspaper poll here emphasised the same trend.

The Premier, Sgr. Alcide de Gasperi, was flying today from Sicily to Naples to make his final speech, while Sgr. Palmiro Togliatti, the Communist leader, travelled from Naples to Rome to speak in the Piazza Giovanna, near the Colosseum.

COMMUNIST ALLEGATIONS

Propaganda in Milan and Northern Italy has grown yet more sensational.

One of the latest Communist declarations says that the premier has sent Fascist agents to Trieste to try to stir up civil war, so as to cover his failure to win the elections by democratic means.

The Communists also claim that British and American troops are parading daily in Trieste to support Sgr. de Gasperi, and that yesterday at such a parade the Christian Democrat and M.S.I. (Movimento Sociale Italiano neo-Fascist) delegates were at the saluting point with the British Commander.

Another Communist suggestion is that the ex-King and Queen will vote in the elections and give their votes to the "third force" Saragat Socialists.

This, they say, proves that Saragat Socialists along belong to the right-wing as the M.S.I. and Christian Democrats.—Reuter.

COMMUNISTS DEFLY ORDER

Calicut Incidents

CALICUT, April 16: Communists took out a procession through the streets of Calicut this morning carrying red flags and shouting anti-Government slogans in defiance of the Order under Section 144, Cr. P. C., issued by the District Magistrate of Malabar.

Two persons were killed and six others wounded when the Malabar Special Police opened fire yesterday on a party of Communists who are alleged to have raided the house of the village Munsiff at Killincheri, a village in North Malabar.

According to a report from Kriavatur, two Communists were injured in a scuffle between a party of Communists and a detachment of Malabar Special Police, one of whom died later. The incident took place on April 12.—A.P.I.

New Cholera Remedy

LONDON, April 16: The British Medical Journal has reported today of the successful treatment of cholera by a new Sulphonamide compound provisionally called "6257".

Dr. S. S. Bhatnagar in tests carried out in Madras last year found 52 of the 85 cases in which the drug was used successful. The paper says that "the results of the drug are so striking that they merit further investigation."—Reuter.

THE REST OF THE NEWS

In order to assist the Government of India in ensuring that all surplus stores which are capable of being utilised for industrial production or similar purposes are put to the most appropriate and expeditious use, a committee known as the Disposal Utilisation Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Mr. G. T. Thadani, formerly Deputy Director-General (Supply).

An appeal preferred on behalf of Hamid Mohd Din, two Muslims of Basti Sheikh, Jullundur, against the sentence of death passed on them by the Sessions Judge, Jullundur, for the murder of Mr. Sunder Das, of Basti Sheikh, in March was dismissed by a Division Bench of the East Punjab High Court.

INDIA'S NEW YEAR DAY

The Indian New Year's day was celebrated in London, on Thursday, with specially printed greeting cards bearing the Indian Tricolour circulating among many Indian residents. Mrs. Asha Bhatnagar, the Secretary of the Indian Women's Committee of the India League, held a reception at the Indian Students' Centre.

Two Indian organisations in Britain—Swaraj House and the Indian Workers' Association of London—have suggested to Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan to form a London branch of the Indian Socialist Party, it is learned. There is also a move to form an Indian Socialist students' organisation in Britain.

Professor Keshavchandra Gupta, General Secretary, Agra District Socialist Party, who was detained on Monday under the Public Safety Act in Agra, was released on Wednesday, writes our Agra correspondent.

A quarrel over the alleged beating of some children led to a free fight between refugees and residents of Motikatra, Agra, in which several were injured, writes our Agra correspondent. Several arrests were made.

As the sweepers of Tonk, a Rajputana State, have refused to remove dead animals, municipal members had to carry away the carcass of a bullock lying on the wayside for six days. The city is threatened with epidemics, writes the executive officer, Tonk Municipality.

A total number of 1,584 students in different faculties appeared for examinations held for the first time in the University of Saugor. Sir H. S. Gour, its founder and Vice-Chancellor, has enlisted the support of the Government of India for the construction of an aerodrome and a meteorological observatory.

JAIPUR HIGH COURT

Sir Saral Kumar Ghose, has been appointed Chief Justice of the High Court, Jaipur, in place of Mr. Sukhdeo Prasad Verma.

Small-pox has been raging in an epidemic in Jaipur State and is spreading to several new places such as Kandagaon, Pasarde, Herla and Shirol, says our correspondent.

The 11th All-India Depressed Classes League Conference will be held in Bawada on April 27 and 28. The Andhra Provincial Agricultural Labour Conference and the All-India Tannery Labourers' Conference will also be held during this period.

Vishnu Narayan, Ganpat Laxman and Gangaram Bapu were arrested by the Santa Cruz police on charges of wrongful confinement and abetment on Tuesday. Their bail period was extended by Mr. M. J. Ghorbandas, of the Andheri Police Court, on Wednesday.

Bakharam Ganu (24), a watchman in the Kurla Jail, was removed to the J.J. Hospital, on Tuesday, where he died of the infection sustained by him as a result of being "sandwiched" between two wagons.

SWEEPERS RELEASED

Mr. B. G. Konjaigi, Resident Magistrate of Bijapur, has released 142 municipal sweepers who were arrested by the police on a charge under the Public Security Measures Act. N. K. Upadhye, M. S. Momin and M. M. Meander, Communist leaders, who were also arrested, have been released on bail.

A domestic servant named Ignatius Pascal Mathias was arrested by the Calaba Police early on Friday morning on suspicion of his having abetted the theft of cash and jewellery valued at Rs. 13,550 from a flat on Marine Drive, Bombay. The arrested man was ordered by Rao Saheb C. B. Velkar, Presidency Magistrate, Esplanade Police Court, Bombay to be released on bail.

A dog running away with the body of a child was stopped on Thursday evening by Kalasingh Jaisingh, a Gurkha watchman of a steel factory at Kailashnagar, Bombay. Jaisingh reported the matter to the police who later removed the body to the morgue.

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| Per 1/4 " | 0 7 3 | 0 8 0 |
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