

"NO CHANGE IN DESIGNATION"

Mr. Kamath's Views

Mr. H. V. Kamath, who did not move any of his amendments, initiated the general discussion of the resolution and the amendments. He said that the declaration must be considered from three aspects, namely, the deletion of the word "British" from the definition of the group of nations, secondly, the reconciliation of the sovereign Independent Republic of India with its continued membership of the Commonwealth of Nations, and lastly, the object of co-operation in the pursuit of peace and liberty.

Mr. Kamath quoted Mr. Attlee's reply to a question in Parliament on May 2, and argued that there was no official change in the designation of the group of nations called the Commonwealth of Nations. As to the content of the change, he asked whether by agreeing to drop the word "British", they had done away with the racial policy in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Kamath said he would have no objection if the King had been the symbol of the free association of the nations, but the declaration had stated that he would be the head of the Commonwealth of Nations as well.

Quoting a "communique" issued on October 22 last by the Prime Ministers' Conference, Mr. Kamath wanted to know whether India agreed to the commitment which the U. K. had entered into with her European neighbours.

MR. AYYANGAR'S SUPPORT

Mr. Anantasayanam Ayyangar, supporting the resolution, said that India was not bound by any commitments and had no obligations to fulfil as a result of the agreement.

Mr. Ayyangar said there was nothing to prevent any future Indian Government from changing the present decision.

He said India could derive advantages out of the agreement and added that but for this arrangement our nationals in other British colonies like Mauritius would have to suffer from political disabilities.

SOCIALIST OPPOSITION

Mr. Damodar Swarup Seth, Socialist member from the U. P., who was the last speaker today supported Mr. Sahu's amendment. Mr. Seth said that the Prime Minister should not have agreed to remain in the Commonwealth without the question being first discussed by the Constituent Assembly.

Before the Constituent Assembly adjourned today, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President, announced that one of the members, Mr. Ferozshah Dhanjishah Kothawala, had died of heart failure in train on his way from Bombay to Delhi to attend the session. Members stood up for a minute as a mark of respect to the member's memory.

The House decided that the session should sit from 8 to 12 in the forenoon from tomorrow.