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SEMINAR ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND PEACE MEETS IN INDIA

9 Dec 63  
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The conference on foreign affairs and peace organized by the "Committee of Indian Parliamentarians for Peace" ((A)) was opened on Saturday by the Prime Minister; who dwelt on the beneficent effects of the lessening of tension between East and West and on the necessity that the efforts in this direction should not be interrupted as a consequence of President KENNEDY's assassination. He repeated the Indian Government's attachment to the policy of nonalignment despite Chinese aggression, which it had been obliged to stop by force, and pointed out that it is not enough to denounce war but that it is advisable to find means to prevent it.

The only foreign representatives -- despite the efforts of DIWAN CHAMAN LALL, who incidentally had asked me to obtain messages from [redacted] and to whom I replied that it is not our tradition to send them to meetings of this type -- are Soviet, Yugoslav, Ceylonese and British. Moreover, Madame NIKOLAEVA, member of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, brought congratulations only from the nongovernmental organization. Yugoslavia delegated Mr. VILFAN, former ambassador to New Delhi. Mr. GREENWOOD, Chairman of the Labor Party, read a communication from Mr. HAROLD WILSON but made it clear that he was participating

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in the seminar as a private individual.

As for the Indians, the (B val leading voices) are on the whole either crypto-communist or left-wing members of Parliament. We might name Mrs. ARUNA ASAF ALI among the former and Mr. MALAVIYA, former Minister of Fuel, and (B val Mr. KRISHNA MENON) among the latter. The last-named, in his speech, made a point of stating that in spite of the provocations of China and Pakistan, India was maintaining her peaceful policy. He observed that there can be disarmament or peace only to the extent that there is a rapprochement between the USSR and the United States: "The more these two powers work together, the better it will be for the world."

((A)) Not available.

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