

Defence. - Agreement with U.S.A. and Britain on Joint Radar Training Exercises. - Australian Participation. - Discussions on Further Western Military Aid to India. - First Deliveries of Soviet "Mig" Aircraft.

The Government of India announced on July 22 that in view of the continuing threat of Chinese aggression the U.S. Government had offered to provide radar and communications equipment for strengthening India's air defences, and that joint training exercises would be held by the Indian Air Force with aircraft and personnel of the U.S. Air Force and the Royal Air Force.

Earlier in 1963 a Commonwealth-U.S. air defence mission had visited India in January and February; an Indian defence mission had visited the U.S.A., Canada, and Britain in April and May; Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, then Minister of Economic and Defence Co-ordination, had had discussions with the Canadian, U.S., and U.K. Governments in May and June; and General J. N. Chaudhury, Indian Chief of Army Staff, had paid a "professional" visit to the U.S.A. in July. These developments, leading up to the conclusion of the agreement of July 22, are summarized below.

Commonwealth-U.S. Air Defence Mission to India.

The U.K. Commonwealth Relations Office and the U.S. State Department announced on Jan. 23 that a joint Commonwealth-U.S. mission, led by Air Commodore C. J. Mount (R.A.F.), Brigadier-General James B. Tipton (U.S.A.F.), and Group Captain G. B. Murray (R.C.A.F.), would leave London on Jan. 29 at the invitation of the Government of India to examine, with the Indian Air Force, the "problems and technical requirements involved in organizing an effective air defence against the possibility of any further Chinese attacks." Australia was also represented by Wing-Commander J. W. Hubble and another officer.

The mission remained in India until Feb. 23. During its stay the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi announced on Feb. 1 that a Military Supply Mission was being set up under the supervision of the U.S. Ambassador and with Brigadier-General (now Major-General) John E. Kelly as chief of mission. General Kelly was a member of the Harriman mission to India in November 1962 see 19194 A— and had remained in order to maintain liaison with the Government of India.

Following unsubstantiated press reports that it was intended to establish foreign bases and aircraft in India as an "air umbrella," Mr. Nehru made a statement in the *Lok Sabha* on Feb. 21 denying that this was the case.

"Since the massive Chinese attack last October," Mr. Nehru said, "the Government of India have been in close touch with various friendly Governments in connexion with measures to be taken

to build up an effective defence against the Chinese attack. Prompt and generous help has come from various friendly countries, more especially from the United States and the United Kingdom, and for this we are grateful.

“Apart from reorientation, Reorganization, and strengthening of the Indian Army and the obtaining of suitable equipment, there was also the question of building up an effective air defence both for an emergency like the one created by the Chinese advance into the N.E.F.A. in November last and to meet the long-term threat posed by China. Both these have to be kept in view; in either event, the strengthening of the Indian Air Force has to be tackled immediately.

“In the event of a sudden emergency arising, the Government will have to deal with it in the light of developments and with support from friendly countries which may become suddenly necessary and be available. These matters were discussed with the U.S. and U.K. Governments in November and December last; and the visit of the U.S.-Commonwealth air team was suggested so that the problem of strengthening India's air defences could be studied by them with the Indian technical Air Staff and prompt action taken to implement the decisions arrived at....

“ [This] team has been in India for about three weeks and will soon be completing their studies and discussions. These discussions between the... team and Indian Air Force experts have led to speculations in the Press about the establishment of foreign bases and foreign planes as an ‘air umbrella’ in India. These reports are incorrect and greatly exaggerated. The U.S.-Commonwealth air team, in their discussions with the Indian Air Force experts, have been dealing with assessment of the Chinese air threat and the extent to which the Indian Air Force requires strengthening in order to meet it.

“The preliminary action that is considered necessary is the extension of existing airstrips and the improvement of ground control and communication systems in connexion with air defence arrangements. These steps will make it possible for the Indian Air Force to function more effectively and, should a sudden emergency arise, to be helped from friendly countries.

“There is no question of the stationing of a foreign air force or the establishment of any foreign air bases in India. As a matter of fact, none of the friendly countries have made any such suggestions. India has to be defended by her own forces. We welcome the help friendly countries have given in procuring the necessary equipment and materials. But the air defence of the country is too vital a matter to be left to improvisation and the delays inherent in any project like the ‘air umbrella’ suggested in press reports.”

Visits to U.S.A., Britain, and Canada by Indian Defence Mission and Mr Krishnamachari. - U.K.-Indian and U.S.-Indian Discussions in New Delhi.

An Indian mission headed by Mr. S. Bhoothalingam (Secretary to the Ministry of Economic and Defence Co-ordination), including representatives of the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force and of the External Affairs Ministry, left New Delhi on April 14 on a three weeks' visit to the U.S.A., Canada, and Britain “in regard to the procurement of defence equipment and stores,” returning to India on May 5.

Meanwhile a series of discussions between Indian, American, and British Ministers and officials took place in New Delhi during the first four days of May. Those participating included Mr. Nehru, Mr. Y. B. Chavan (Minister of Defence), Sardar Swaran Singh (then Minister of Railways), Mr. Krishnamachari, Mr. Dundan Sandys (U.K. Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations and Colonies), Lord Mountbatten (U.K. Chief of the Defence Staff), Sir Paul Gore-Booth (U.K. High Commissioner in India), Mr. Dean Rusk (U.S. Secretary of State), and Professor J. K. Galbraith (then U.S. Ambassador to India).

Although no official communiqué was issued, Mr. Sandys stated before leaving New Delhi on May 4 that the purpose of the visit had been to maintain regular contacts between one Commonwealth country and another; although the Kashmir dispute [see 19541 A] had been one of the principal topics discussed, the British Government had never stipulated that military aid to India to meet the threat of Chinese aggression should be subject to a satisfactory settlement in Kashmir.

Mr. Sandys added: "It has been suggested that we in Britain made it a condition that there would be no military aid unless the Kashmir problem was settled. It has even been suggested that we have withdrawn that condition. The truth is that we have never made that condition, and therefore we have not withdrawn it. The position is... that there is not any condition –rather that a settlement in Kashmir, is not a condition of military aid. On the other hand, a settlement of this dispute... would greatly ease our task."

Mr. Krishnamachari, accompanied by Mr. M. J. Desai (Foreign Secretary) and Dr. K. S. Shelvankar (adviser to the External Affairs Ministry), left New Delhi on May 10 for a visit to Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom. Mr. Krishnamachari had previously visited Australia and New Zealand in April.

While in Canada, the Minister signed an agreement on May 14 under which Canada would lend India Can.\$12,500,000 to cover the purchase of 16 *Caribou* transport planes, together with spare parts, to be delivered between the end of 1963 and the middle of 1964. The loan would be for five years at normal commercial rates of interest, but the Canadian Government had agreed to make a grant to India of about Can. \$2,000,000 to defray half the interest charges.

Mr. Krishnamachari subsequently flew to Washington on May 15, having talks with President Kennedy on May 20 and holding a press conference on May 22.

At this press conference Mr. Krishnamachari said that India had asked for assistance to double the strength of her army over the next three years; to increase her arms production; to develop radio communications and build airfields; and to increase the number of her transport planes, fighter-bombers, bombers, and supersonic jets. On the question of American aid, Mr. Krishnamachari pointed out the "futility" of estimating on a monetary basis and said that the U.S. Administration had asked India to examine the possibility of acquiring surplus American machine tools which were lying in Japan and Britain. Mr. Krishnamachari said that the United States had not raised the question of a matching contribution from the Commonwealth; this had been possible at the time of the Nassau Agreement but might not be possible now. However, if Britain agreed to match the U.S. contribution, the Government of India had "no objection."

After flying to London on May 29 for discussions with the British Government, Mr. Krishnamachari returned to India on June 3.

In a statement to the *Lok Sabha*, Mr. Krishnamachari said on Aug. 14 that the U.S.A. had agreed to help India with a small-arms ammunition plant and to provide technical consultative services and technical training facilities. India might also expect assistance towards augmenting her fleet of transport aircraft and improving the utilization of her existing aircraft, together with aid for accelerating road construction in border areas and installing radar and communications facilities. Great Britain was "expediting supplies of aid under the Nassau scheme" and financing spares for aircraft of British origin, but details of further aid still remained to be worked out—any limitations on aid from the U.K. being "imposed by finance and not by any lack of desire to do the utmost to help in our predicament." India could also "count on the friendship of the Canadian Government and support from Canada... generally."

At their Birch Grove meeting on June 29–30, President Kennedy and Mr. Macmillan agreed on "their policy of continuing to help India by providing further military aid to strengthen her defences against the threat of renewed Chinese Communist attack".

[The U.K. House of Commons Estimates Committee, in a report published on March 4 on the Spring Supplementary Estimates, had disclosed that under the Nassau Agreement the U.S. and U.K. Governments had agreed that the Commonwealth and the U.S.A. should worth of military equipment for reinforcing her defences—between £15,000,000 and £17,000,000 of this being provided by Britain.]

General J. N. Chaudhury, Indian Chief of Army Staff, flew to the U.S.A. on July 13 for a fortnight's "purely professional mission... to study technical matters."

Agreement on Joint Radar Training Exercises.

Announcements were made in New Delhi, Washington, and London on July 22 on the agreement between the Indian, U.S., and U.K. Governments on the provision of certain radar and other equipment and the holding of joint training exercises in India to "help in testing the equipment and in enabling Indian Air Force personnel to master its use." It was stressed, however, that the agreement did not involve any commitment by the U.S. or British Governments to assist in the defence of India should she be attacked.

The Indian External Affairs Ministry issued the following statement on the agreement:

"Ever since the large-scale Chinese aggression against India in October 1962, the Government of India has been particularly concerned with the need for strengthening the Indian Air Force to enable it to provide adequate protection to our cities, our industrial complexes, and our vital defence installations in the event of a large-scale Chinese air attack. For this purpose the Government of India has sought assistance from all friendly countries, including the Commonwealth, the United States, and the Soviet Union. In response, a Commonwealth-U.S. Air Defence Mission visited India earlier this year.

“The United States have offered to provide a set of radar installations and connected communications equipment which will cover almost the entire northern border. This offer has been accepted, since radar coverage is the first requisite for effective air defence arrangements. The United Kingdom is also providing electronic and communications equipment of assistance to the air defence of India.

“Since it will take 12 to 18 months before permanent radar units can be ready and installed for use, the U.S. Government has offered to send some mobile radar sets to this country to provide coverage and initiate training of I.A.F. personnel on these mobile radar sets in the interim period. These sets will remain the property of the U.S. Government and will be withdrawn when permanent radar installations are set up.

“This radar and communications equipment which is being procured from the U.S.A. will incorporate various technological advances in the field of radar and communications and will be highly sophisticated. The I.A.F. personnel will require to be adequately trained in the use and maintenance of this equipment. The U.S. Government has agreed to initiate this training on the mobile radar sets so that the entire radar and communications equipment to be installed can be fully manned by I.A.F. personnel.

“As an important part of the training of I.A.F. personnel in this sophisticated radar and communications equipment, it has been agreed by the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom that high performance fighter aircraft from their air forces may visit India temporarily and participate in joint training exercises with the I.A.F., under overall I.A.F. aegis, to help in testing the equipment and in enabling I.A.F. personnel to master its use. These exercises will also provide an opportunity to I.A.F. squadrons to practise alongside fighter aircraft from the U.S.A. and the U.K., from which they will gain valuable experience regarding the latest techniques of air defence.

“While agreeing to these joint training exercises, the U.S. and U.K. Governments have expressly stated that they will not mean any commitment by those Governments to assist India in its defence should it be attacked. Although the U.S. and U.K. Governments have agreed to consult with the Government of India in the event of such a contingency, the Government of India... has made it quite clear that the defence of India, including its air defence, is wholly and solely the responsibility of the Government of India. These joint training exercises, which will be of short duration, will be carried out for the purpose of imparting training and experience to the Indian Air Force.

“Discussions with the Soviet Union regarding the assistance for strengthening our air defence that can be provided by that country are going on.”

Similar announcements were made on the same day by the U.S. State Department and by Mr. Sandys in a written reply in the House of Commons. State Department officials said that the U.S.A. and Britain would each send one squadron of supersonic all-weather jet aircraft; that the mobile radar and related equipment would be ready for operation (in the New Delhi and Calcutta areas) in about two months and would have operating costs estimated at \$2,000,000 to

\$3,000,000; and that the fixed installations would be ready for operation in approximately 18 months and would cost about \$15,000,000.

Australia's participation in the joint training exercises was announced on Aug. 16 by Sir Garfield Barwick, the Minister of External Affairs, who said that Australia would send two Canberras and four liaison officers to India.

Deliveries of Soviet "Mig" Aircraft - Arrangements for Manufacture of "Migs" in India.

Mr. Y. B. Chavan had informed the *Lok Sabha* on Jan. 21 that India was to receive a number of *Mig* jet fighters within a few days; [Mar. nehru had previously announced on Dec. 4, 1962, that the first of these aircraft would be delivered shortly—see 19194 A]; he added that while no further deliveries were expected from the Soviet Union during 1968, the Indian Air Force's requirements of *Migs* would be met mainly by manufacturing them in India. The first four of the 12 Soviet aircraft to be supplied arrived at Bombay on Feb. 11.

In reply to questions in the *Lok Sabha* on April 15, Government spokesmen announced that the airframes of the *Migs* to be built in India would be manufactured at Nasik (Maharashtra) and the engines at Koraput (Orissa); that the first aircraft were expected to be completed in 18 months to two years and would be of the "latest type"; [this was interpreted in the Indian Press as indicating *Mig-21s*] and that the agreement with the Soviet Government covered "the manufacture of the entire aircraft, including its armament." A State-owned company with an authorized capital of Rs. 250,000,000—Aeronautics India Ltd.—was registered on Aug. 17 to manufacture *Migs* and other aircraft.

Other Military Aid to India.

Other recent agreements with Commonwealth and foreign countries on defence aid to India included the following:

Australia. Sir Garfield Barwick announced on March 10 that the £A300,000 worth of blankets, military clothing, and wool, promised in November 1962 [see 19194 A], had been despatched to India; that the £A820,000 worth of F.N. rifles and ammunition had now been sent as a gift and not against credits; that a quantity of 303 rifles had also been shipped; and that Australian aid to India was to be increased to about £A2,000,000.

Canada. Mr. Y. B. Chavan told the *Rajya Sabha* on March 19 that Canada had agreed to give India two further Dakotas and five other transport aircraft, in addition to the six *Dakotas* already provided in November [see 19194 A].

New Zealand. An agreement was signed in Wellington on Feb. 27 for a loan of £250,000 by the N.Z. Government for the purchase by India of wool for re-equipping the Indian Army (as promised in December 1962—see 19194 A). The loan would be available over five years, and interest would be charged at a rate "slightly below the normal in transactions of this kind" and would be waived for the first two years.

Yugoslavia. An agreement for the supply of Yugoslav ammunition worth about Rs. 30,000,000 was signed in New Delhi on May 17. Payment would be made in non-convertible rupees over three years, outstanding payments bearing interest at three per cent.

In addition to the above agreements and those mentioned in 19194 A, Mr. Chavan gave the following additional information on Aug. 16 in a statement to the *Rajya Sabha*: (1) Italy had given 2,000 woollen blankets worth Rs. 40,000; (2) France had promised to supply aircraft spares up to a value of Rs. 20,000,000; equipment and supplies promised by Canada had totalled Rs. 20,270,000 (excluding the loan and grant in respect of the *Caribou* aircraft under the agreement of May 14—see above), of which Rs. 11,400,000 had already been delivered. The Defence Minister added that it would not be in the public interest to disclose the total value of supplies promised and received from the United States and Britain. (The Statesman, Calcutta - The Hindu, Madras - Indian High Commissioner's Office, London - Times - Daily Telegraph - Guardian - U.S. Information Service - New York Times - Australian News and Information Bureau - New Zealand External Affairs Department) (**Prev. rep. India, Defence Aid, 19194 A; pakistani Reactions, 19541 A.**)

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