

indication at the Sheikh's statement and demanded immediate action against him, and contrary to the facts of history," but said that the Government should "not act under provocation." While the Sheikh was saying "contradictory things," the Government was watching the effect on the people of Kashmir, and through he [Mr. Chavan] shared the anxiety and resentment expressed by Members he felt that they should "act wisely and cautiously." There was no doubt, he said later in the debate, that Sheikh Abdullah was an independent citizen, and as such he not only enjoyed advantages but also had to discharge certain responsibilities.

Mr. Sadiq said in Jammu on March 30 that "the time is not yet ripe to take any action against Sheikh Abdullah for his recent speeches in the Valley which are in a way provocative," and maintained that the speeches had not created any impact on the public life of Kashmir." Mr. Sadiq had earlier told the State Assembly on March 7 that there would be no fresh elections in the State as a result of Sheikh Abdullah's release, or until the Assembly's term expired in about four years, although Sheikh Abdullah would be welcome to participate in any by-election.

Mr. Morarji Desai, the Indian Deputy Prime Minister, said on April 21 that while the Indian Government was prepared to talk with anyone, including Sheikh Abdullah, there could be no plebiscite in Kashmir, and no compromise on the question of the State's accession to India. When Sheikh Abdullah paid a 10-day visit to Delhi at the end of April and beginning of May, he was not received by any of the Indian leaders; the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Mr. V. C. Shukla, stated in the *Lok Sabha* on May 8 that the Government of India would not hold any negotiations with the Sheikh.

Disturbances in Srinagar and Jammu. - Lok Sabha Debate on Kashmir.

Serious communal rioting occurred in Srinagar on Aug. 24-27, 1967, following the conversion of a Pandit (Brahmin) girl to Islam and her marriage to a Moslem. The girl's mother, who brought a legal action to have her returned to her former home, alleged that she was under the legal age of marriage, and that she had been abducted and forcibly converted and married; this was denied by the girl herself. Commentators suggested that the agitation reflected the Pandit community's resentment at their loss of the privileged status which they had enjoyed under the former Hindu dynasty.

The Pandits' agitation for the return of the girl provoked counter-demonstrations by Moslems on Aug. 24, and several people were injured in clashes between the two communities. On the following day the Pandits rioted when the police attempted to prevent them from marching in a procession, a youth being killed in the fighting and many people injured. A curfew was then imposed on parts of the city, and Army units patrolled the disturbed areas. The rioting spread on Aug. 26 to Jammu, where troops were called out after disturbances in which 120 policemen were injured. Further fighting between Pandits and police occurred on Aug. 27 in Srinagar, 22 day Moslems rioted in retaliation. Following talks with the Indian Home Minister, Mr. Chavan, the Pandits suspended their agitation on Sept. 3, whilst the Government released all those arrested in connexion with the agitation.

Fresh rioting, however, broke out in Srinagar on Oct. 3, 1967, when Moslem students clashed with the police; the students were reported to have found torn pieces of the Koran in the college latrine, and to have demonstrated in protest against the sacrilege. After lathi charges and tear-gas had failed to disperse the rioters the police opened fire, killing at least two people. A *Jam Sangh* demonstration in Jammu on Oct. 7 also gave rise to riots.

Mr. D. N. Pateria (*Swatantra*) declared that, because of the Government's "indecisiveness," "anti-social elements and Pakistan agents" were shouting pro-Pakistan and anti-Indian slogans in the streets of Srinagar.

Mr. Amrit Nahata (Congress), while opposing the demand for President's rule, alleged that "infiltrators" were "spreading poison" to destroy communal harmony in Kashmir.

Bakshi Ghulam Mohammed denied that any particular community was responsible for the killings in the recent riots in Kashmir, all of which had been due to lathi charges or firing by the police. He recalled that before the general elections many nominations had been rejected on "flimsy grounds"; since then only one of the 57 election petitions had been disposed of, although in every other State a majority of them had been dealt with. He therefore demanded the dismissal of the State Government, and the holding of by-elections in all the constituencies from which election petitions had been filed.

Mr. Chavan, in reply to the debate, rejected the demand for President's rule, and maintained that the security of the State had been fully safeguarded and anti-social elements brought under control.

Report of Inquiry into Corruption Charges against Bakshi Ghulam Mohammed.

Mr. Justice N. Rajagopala Ayyangar, who had been appointed by the Kashmir Government to inquire into allegations of corruption against Bakshi Ghulam Mohammed, submitted his report on June 30, 1967.

In the report, which consisted of over 1,300 pages, Mr. Justice Ayyangar stated that 15 of the 34 allegations into which he had inquired had been established to his satisfaction. He held that Bakshi Ghulam Mohammed and members of his family had obtained an "improper benefit or undue financial advantage" amounting to Rs. 5,400,000, of which Rs. 3,300,000 were traceable directly to the abuse of power by the former Prime Minister. The report absolved him of the charge of abuse of power before 1956, but commented that "with the sum of Rs. 5,000,000 of unfair and improper advantage gained by Bakshi Ghulam Mohammed and members of his family had to be taken the experience gained and contacts established between 1948 and 1956, which must have contributed to their standing in the business world." Certain officials were also stated to have been guilty of negligence, irregularities, and improprieties enabling members of Bakshi Ghulam Mohammed's family to gain undue pecuniary advantage.

Bakshi Ghulam Mohammed described the report on July 2 as "one-sided," and said that he did not accept it; it had been based, he alleged, on Government witnesses and Government figures arrived at arbitrarily, and although Mr. Justice Ayyangar had invited complainants from the public none had been received. An amendment to the electoral law adopted by the State Assembly on Sept. 8 disqualified anyone who had been convicted in a civil or criminal court, or whom a non-judicial tribunal, commission, or board had found to have misused office, from taking part in elections for five to 10 years.

Incidents on Cease-fire Line.

The only serious incident on the cease-fire line during 1967 occurred on Oct. 9-10. According to an Indian Defence Ministry spokesman, Pakistani forces opened fire in the Uri sector on Oct. 9 without provocation, killing two Indian soldiers, wounding other hand, alleged that the Indians had crossed the cease-fire line and captured a Pakistani post, but had been forced to withdraw on the following day. The firing, which had continued intermittently throughout the night, ended early on Oct. 10 after U.N. observers had arrived to investigate the incident. (Indian High Commissioner's Office, London - Government Press Information Department, Rawalpindi - The Hindu, Madras - The Statesman, Calcutta - New York Times)

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April 8 until the Constitution would be amended.

The new Constitution replaced that of October 1952 promulgated to facilitate a possible eventual unification of Western Germany (see 10028 A).

Her Ullrich first announced a projected new division of the Federal Republic of Germany into two parts on May 1967. It was not, however, until Dec. 1 that the formation of 40 deputees from all parties and 22 c to consist of the legal field.

Announcing the proposed steps towards a new Ullrich told the *Volkskammer* that the old fulfilled its purpose, having "guaranteed the liberty of the citizens and helped to shape social and economic meaning, he declared, social evolution in the G. a stage when the main task had become the development of the socialist order of society. "The new social would be "the basis for a German policy of friendship, socialism, and international friendship."

Copies of the text of the constitutional draft completed in just two months, were distributed to all in the G.D.R. during February, and organizations were requested to submit amendments. It was claimed that 11,000,000 people in 750,000 public discussions of the draft, and 10,000-12,000 proposed amendments, about 50 considered.

The principal provisions of the draft Constitution comprises 108 Articles, are summarized below headings.

Political Principles.

The German Democratic Republic was described as "the German nation" and "the political and working people in town and country," who are united under the leadership of the working class and its Marxist-Leninist Party. A new provision said of the German Democratic Republic is Berlin. "All political power in the G.D.R. is exercised by the people." The "inviolable foundations of socialism provided by the 'firm alliance' of all sections of the socialist ownership of the means of production, the planning and direction of the development of the country, and the most advanced scientific findings." "of from each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs" will be implemented." [Art. 2]

"The alliance of all popular forces finds its organization in the National Front of democratic Germany. mass organizations combine all popular forces in the National Front in order to develop society."

On foreign policy the Constitution stated that G.D.R. "pursues a foreign policy serving peace, international friendship, and security"; that develops all-round co-operation and friendship with the other socialist States on the basis of nationalism"; and that it "strives for a system security in Europe and a stable order of peace in the world." The G.D.R. would "never undertake a war of aggression against the freedom of another question of relations with the German Federal Republic stated:

"The establishment and cultivation of normal co-operation between the two German States, equality are national concerns of the G.D.R. The citizens strive in addition to overcome the division imposed upon the German nation by imperialism, step-by-step rapprochement between the two German States on the basis of democracy and equality." [Art. 8]

Economic Principles.

The national economy of the G.D.R. would be based on socialist ownership of the means of production and planned economy. "Economic relations with other States shall be based on the principle of equality." [Art. 9]