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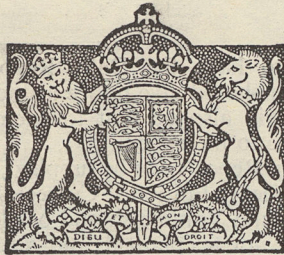
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House of Commons official report, London

- oral answers to questions: Guatemala.

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Monday
5th July, 1954

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

HOUSE OF COMMONS
OFFICIAL REPORT

CONTENTS

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS :

Guatemala [Col. 1764]

SUPPLY [18th Allotted Day]—COMMITTEE [Col. 1798] :

Civil Estimates and Estimates for Revenue Departments,
1954-55

CIVIL DEFENCE [Col. 1798] :

Debate in Committee of Supply

ROYAL ASSENT TO BILLS PASSED [Col. 1835]

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

LONDON

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, 5th July, 1954

The House met at Half past
Two o'Clock

PRAYERS

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

PRIVATE BUSINESS

ROYAL WAREHOUSEMEN CLERKS AND
DRAPERS' SCHOOLS BILL [*Lords*]

TEES CONSERVANCY (DEPOSIT OF
DREDGED MATERIAL) BILL [*Lords*]

HARTLEPOOL PORT AND HARBOUR BILL

As amended, considered; to be read
the Third time.

BRITISH TRANSPORT COMMISSION
ORDER CONFIRMATION BILL

"to confirm a Provisional Order under the
Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland)
Act, 1936, relating to the British Transport
Commission," presented by Mr. J. Stuart;
and ordered (under Section 7 of the Act)
to be considered Tomorrow, and to be
printed. [Bill 138.]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

GERMANY (OCCUPATION COSTS)

1. **Lieut.-Colonel Lipton** asked the
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
what agreement has been reached with
the West German Government on the
subject of occupation costs after 1st July
last, when the present arrangements
expired.

**The Minister of State (Mr. Selwyn
Lloyd):** Discussions between the allied
authorities and the Federal Government
about the arrangements for occupation
costs after 1st July, 1954, are now taking
place. I regret that I cannot yet tell
the hon. and gallant Member any more.

Lieut.-Colonel Lipton: Will the right
hon. and learned Gentleman give an
assurance that the belated completion of
this arrangement has not been held up
by the truculent ultimatum of the
German Chancellor last Friday?

Mr. Lloyd: The position of Her
Majesty's Government is fully preserved
in the meantime.

MILITARY ATTACHE, MEXICO CITY

2. **Captain Kerby** asked the Secretary
of State for Foreign Affairs the last date
upon which Her Majesty's Military
Attaché at Mexico City visited
Tegucigalpa and Guatemala; the dura-
tion of his stay in both capitals; and if
he is satisfied that this officer can deal
effectively with the military aspects and
potentialities of the seven Republics to
which he is accredited.

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd: The former Mili-
tary Attaché at Her Majesty's Embassy
at Mexico City visited Guatemala from
3rd May to 8th May and the capital of
Honduras from 9th May to 10th May of
this year. His successor, who arrived at
Mexico City on 28th May has been try-
ing for some time to reach Guatemala
City, but has not yet reported his arrival.

The arrangement by which this officer
is appointed to seven Republics is
normally satisfactory and must be
accepted, given the need for economy in
Government expenditure overseas.

GUATEMALA

H.M. Government Representation

3. **Mr. Marquand** asked the Secretary
of State for Foreign Affairs why Her
Majesty has been represented in
Guatemala by a Chargé d'Affaires dur-
ing the present emergency; and what
steps he has taken to secure representa-
tion by a fully-accredited Minister.

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd: Mr. W. H.
Gallienne, who had been Minister at
Guatemala City since 1947, left on 17th
March to take up his appointment as
Ambassador to Cuba. His successor,
Mr. R. H. S. Allen, left the United
Kingdom on 29th May, but owing to the
disruption of communications, he was
not able to reach his post until 2nd July.

Mr. Marquand: Does not that answer,
and the right hon. and learned Gentle-
man's answer to the previous Question,
show that Her Majesty's Government
were grievously lacking in information
about all the affairs that took place in

Guatemala at this time? Will not the right hon. and learned Gentleman undertake to publish as a White Paper the full information that he obtained either from the Guatemalan Government or from such representatives as he may have had in Guatemala during that period?

Mr. Lloyd : I should like to repudiate straight away any suggestion that Her Majesty's Government were not appropriately represented during this period. Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires was a very experienced and able officer, and I am perfectly certain that he represented us in the best possible manner.

Mr. Attlee : Had the Government no information of what was brewing in Honduras?

Mr. Lloyd : There are later Questions with regard to that matter. There was a public communication, I think in January of this year, by the Guatemalan Government.

Mr. Smithers : Does not my right hon. and learned Friend think it is a good thing that there should be an interval when a new Minister is appointed so that more junior members of the Diplomatic Service may have an opportunity to prove their worth?

U.N. Security Council

4. **Mr. Beswick** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, following the abstention of the representative of Her Majesty's Government on the Security Council with regard to the matter of the invasion of Guatemala, he will now instruct Her Majesty's representative that it is the view of Her Majesty's Government that any country has the right to appeal to the Security Council under Article 35, even though that country is a member of a regional arrangement.

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd : The abstention recorded in the Security Council on 25th June by the United Kingdom representative in connection with the Guatemalan question in no way indicated that Her Majesty's Government consider that membership of a regional arrangement impairs the right of appeal to the Security Council under Article 35 of the United Nations Charter.

The reasons for the abstention in question were explained in my reply to the hon. Member for Gravesend (Sir R. Acland) on 30th June.

Mr. Beswick : If the Minister is now accepting what we have said on this side, that Guatemala had every right to bring her case before the Security Council, does he not think that it was most unfortunate that we appeared to equivocate at the important time?

Mr. Lloyd : I do not agree. There is the right referred to, under Article 35 of the Charter, to bring a matter to the attention of the Security Council. That was done.

Mr. Noel-Baker : Does not Article 39 also impose an absolute duty on the Security Council to determine whether or not there has been an aggression?

Mr. Lloyd : It certainly leaves it quite open to the Security Council to decide by what method it shall come to a conclusion on that point.

Sir H. Williams : Can my right hon. and learned Friend say whether the Press reports, to the effect that the total invading force consisted of one colonel, 38 other ranks and one radio transmitter, are true or not? Are not they less numerous than the whole Security Council put together?

Mr. Lloyd : I think it is quite clear that the whole business has been grossly exaggerated.

Mr. Marquand : Does the right hon. and learned Gentleman suggest that it is necessary to determine by what method an aggression took place, and can he answer my previous question, which was whether he will publish the information which he obtained from this naval attaché in charge during the period?

Mr. Lloyd : I think that the right hon. Gentleman is getting a little muddled. There was no naval attaché in charge during the period, but there are later Questions on the Order Paper about the publication of a White Paper, with which I am going to deal.

16. **Mr. Emrys Hughes** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will publish a White Paper on the discussions in the United Nations Security Council on the events in Guatemala,

similar to the one that was issued on events which led to the United Nations action in Korea.

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd: Yes, Sir. I am arranging for this to be done.

Mr. Wyatt: Will it not be forever to our shame that when this small country came to the United Nations Security Council with its complaint we did not act with the speed which the United Nations Charter requires, but shared in the equivocation and delays suggested by the United States, so that, whatever the rights and wrongs of the matter may be, we will be forever on record as being prepared to act quickly when Communists undertake aggression but not when it is suggested that others may have?

Mr. Lloyd: That is, of course, a wholly misconceived comment. What happened was that on 20th June a suggestion was made for immediate action by a body already in existence to find the facts, namely, the Organisation of American States, and it was a Russian veto on 20th June that caused the delay.

Mr. Emrys Hughes: In view of the aspersions that have been cast upon a religious institution known as the United Fruit Company will the Minister of State undertake in the White Paper to tell us something about the United Fruit Company, how much of the land it owns, whether it is a monopoly, and whether the whole affair has not been organised in the interests of monopoly to overthrow a democratically elected Government?

Mr. Lloyd: I have promised a White Paper on the discussions of the United Nations Security Council on the events in Guatemala.

Mr. Gower: Could my right hon. and learned Friend possibly indicate whether the treaties and international agreements of this century have done anything, in effect, to modify the Monroe doctrine of the last century?

Mr. Lloyd: There is a strong feeling among Latin American States that the Monroe doctrine still exists and this Organisation of American States, which includes Guatemala, is in existence. Guatemala thereby pledges herself to take these matters first of all to the Organisation of the American States.

Mr. Crossman: Is the Minister aware that these events have been described by Mr. Dulles as a splendid victory against Communism, and that the Foreign Secretary has been specifically congratulated by Mr. Dulles for his success in preventing them being investigated by the United Nations? Does he not realise that a British policy which deliberately condones invasion by proxy by America and causes millions of men to die for invasion by proxy by Russia is something which brings this country into utter disrepute?

Mr. Lloyd: I do not accept what the hon. Gentleman says—[HON. MEMBERS: "It is true."]—and I believe that when this White Paper is studied, and the course of events is seen, very few people will agree with the hon. Gentleman.

18. **Mr. Warbey** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will make a further statement on the action of the Security Council in relation to the Guatemalan question.

15. **Mr. Fenner Brockway** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will make a statement on further action taken by the Security Council of the United Nations regarding the invasion of Guatemala.

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd: The position remains as stated in my reply to the hon. Member for Uxbridge (Mr. Beswick), on 28th June.

Mr. Warbey: As there is little doubt that this attack on the Guatemalan Government has been launched from bases outside the country, and that the Security Council's appeal for a cease fire was ignored, can the right hon. and learned Gentleman say why the British representative did not urge the Security Council to intervene with the same speed as it intervened in the case of the Korean aggression? If the Minister says that this incident has been exaggerated is he saying that it was only a little murder and that, therefore, we should not bother much about it?

Mr. Lloyd: What I say is that when the matter first came before the Security Council on 20th June action was taken, supported by Her Majesty's Government, which, I believe, would have resulted in the facts being found very quickly, but that resolution was vetoed by the Soviet Union. Then, on a later occasion, on

25th June, an attempt was made to bring the item before the Security Council again. The hon. Member does not need much imagination to see what might easily have happened, and, in the circumstances, Her Majesty's Government were perfectly right in doing what they could to urge the Organisation of American States to send out a Fact-Finding Committee. In fact, the whole thing has fizzled out.

Mr. A. Henderson: May the House take it that it is the view of Her Majesty's Government that the outcome of the revolution in Guatemala will not be allowed to impede the consideration of the matter by the Security Council after it has received the report of this Fact-Finding Committee? Can we take it that the question whether or not there has been an act of aggression will not be ruled out by the fact that the revolution is over?

Mr. Lloyd: We have always said that the sending out of the Committee by the Organisation of American States should not exclude the matter from the Security Council. The matter would obviously have to be considered again by the Security Council in one form or another.

Mr. F. M. Bennett: Will my right hon. and learned Friend take note of the fact that his hon. Friends on this side of the House do not share the apparently unanimous regret of hon. Members opposite at the disappearance of a Communist régime hostile to this country?

Mr. Foot: May we take it from the Minister's reply that it is the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that if an aggression succeeds quickly enough it has the full approval of the Government?

Mr. Lloyd: Not at all, but one has to seek to take such action as is possible in the circumstances. The simple and the best form of action was vetoed by the Soviet Union on 20th June.

22. **Mr. Hale** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will give details of how the British representative voted on each complaint of a threat to her security made by Guatemala to the United Nations organisation during the last two years what were the dates; and what action was taken.

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd: The only occasions in the past two years on which the Guatemalan Government have asked the Security Council to take action to put an end to threats to her security were on 19th June and 22nd June of this year. These requests were considered by the Security Council on 20th June and 25th June. The House has already been informed of the way in which the United Kingdom delegate on the Security Council voted on those two occasions and of the action taken by the Council.

Mr. Hale: Will the right hon. and learned Gentleman bear in mind that the sacrifice of a vital principle of the United Nations cannot be excused by saying that the Guatemalan war is only a small war, and that a small war is much more easy to regulate and prompt action is more easily effected? Is the Minister not aware that to refer to the bombing of an open town, the invasion of a country, and the sinking of a British ship as a matter which is fizzling out is a little unusual in this House, and that we heard it with regret? When the right hon. and learned Gentleman talks of exiles invading from without, might not a similar description be applied with equal accuracy to a war by Formosa against China?

Mr. Lloyd: I do not think that I referred to any of the matters as fizzling out. It appears that hostilities have terminated. They have fizzled out and, as has been suggested, the two colonels now are in comparative amity.

Mr. Royle: Can we take it from all these Questions and answers on this subject that it is now the policy of the Government that the United Nations Organisation as such should only deal with aggression when the aggression arises from Communist countries?

Mr. Lloyd: Not at all. We wish the Security Council to operate in accordance with the terms of the Charter. On 20th June there was one veto on a certain course of action and, as I say, I do not think it requires much imagination to understand what would have happened. I am convinced that the course we took was the right one.

Mr. Noel-Baker: Will the Government insist that the Fact Finding Committee shall give us the full facts of what occurred?

Mr. Lloyd : We certainly will endeavour to find out the full facts. We have no power to insist.

Mr. Smithers : Is my right hon. and learned Friend aware that, as one who was on the staff of the legation in Guatemala for some years, I feel that it is fortunate for British interests and for the interests of everybody in Central America that the disorders have ceased so quickly? Will my right hon. and learned Friend, therefore resist attempts to transfer the fighting to the Floor of this House when it can do nothing but harm to the interests of this country and of the Central American countries?

British Property (Damage)

6. **Mr. A. Henderson** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will make a further statement on the effect on British interests of the situation in Guatemala and on the report of the Fact-Finding Commission.

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd : As the House has already been informed, a Shell Company installation outside Guatemala City was machine-gunned and damaged, and the British vessel "Springfjord" was bombed and burnt out at the port of San José. I have received no other reports of damage to British property in Guatemala.

As far as the Fact-Finding Committee is concerned, I believe that Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala have now withdrawn their charges, but this has not yet been confirmed. The Committee returned to Washington on 3rd July from Mexico City, and an announcement may be made tomorrow.

Mr. Henderson : Apart from the fact that a British ship was sunk after being bombed, has the attention of the Minister been drawn to the statement in "The Times" today that had it not been for the fact that Colonel Armas had the services of a number of foreign aircraft the Government of Guatemala would have been able to deal with the situation very easily? Is it not essential, in view of this, that the public should know the identity of the aircraft, where they came from and where the bombs came from? In those circumstances, will the Government press for the Fact-Finding Committee to establish the facts?

Mr. Lloyd : Her Majesty's Government will certainly seek to find out what the

facts were, but I quite agree with what the right hon. and learned Gentleman has said on the point. As far as the Committee and its movements are concerned, I think we must await its report.

Captain Duncan : Is my right hon. and learned Friend in agreement with me when I say that this was a typical Central American revolution, and, that being so, that the whole incident has been grossly exaggerated, largely, it is suspected, on account of anti-American prejudice?

Mr. Lloyd : I certainly think that hon. Members would be very wise not to draw a conclusion contrary to that of my hon. and gallant Friend without knowing the facts.

Mr. Wigg : If it is merely a question of a Central American revolution of the musical-comedy type, will the right hon. and learned Gentleman deny that American planes and pilots bombed and machine-gunned Guatemala?

Mr. Lloyd : That is a fact which we have to find out.

New Government

11. **Sir R. Acland** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what Government he now recognises in Guatemala.

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd : The constitutional position in Guatemala is not yet clear. No new request for recognition has been made. In the meantime, Her Majesty's representative has been instructed to deal with the authorities in Guatemala City on a *de facto* basis.

Sir R. Acland : In view of the report in "The Times" already quoted by my right hon. and learned Friend, has the Minister any doubt that we are here dealing with a situation in which an elected Government has been overthrown by a revolutionary force vociferously encouraged and militarily sustained from outside? Is that not exactly what we complain about regarding the Communists all over China and Asia, and had we not better be very wary about recognising the outcome of this lamentable state of affairs?

Mr. Lloyd : I certainly agree with the hon. Baronet that we should try to ascertain more about the facts before we proceed to deal with this new Government except on a *de facto* basis. On the other

hand, it is quite clear that what took place was a revolt by Guatemalan exiles against the Government.

Aircraft Attacks

12. **Sir R. Acland** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will make a statement on the bombing and sinking of a British ship near Guatemala.

24. **Mr. Bing** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will instruct Her Majesty's representatives in Honduras, Guatemala and the United States of America to conduct inquiries as to the country of origin of the Thunderbolt aircraft used by the insurgents in the recent Guatemalan civil war that made attacks upon British shipping; the country or countries which granted the export licence to enable these aircraft to be supplied to the insurgents; and the country or countries from which these aircraft took off for their incursions into Guatemala.

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd: As I have informed the House, the British steamer "Springfjord," on charter to the United States Grace Line, was bombed and set on fire on 27th June off the port of San José, Guatemala, when she was taking on a mixed cargo. Her crew are safe. Although badly damaged, Lloyds' Agent in Guatemala reported that the ship was still afloat on 29th June.

Immediate inquiries were addressed by Her Majesty's representatives in neighbouring countries to the Governments of El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua in an endeavour to establish the facts about the attacking aircraft. These Governments all stated that they had no information. The Guatemalan Government informed Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires on 28th June that the aircraft belonged to the insurgent forces.

A claim for compensation has been presented by the owners to the Guatemalan Legation in London.

Mr. Bing: Is the Minister aware that this was an American-type aircraft and that it must have taken off from territory other than Guatemalan? Does he intend to adopt the same attitude towards the loss of this British ship as the Chancellor of the Exchequer used to adopt during the Spanish civil war, or will he stand up for British interests?

Mr. Lloyd: I should imagine that there are very few aeroplanes in this part of the world that are not of American type.

Mr. Noel-Baker: Will the Minister verify from the Fact-Finding Committee which has gone out, I understand, on behalf of the United Nations, what the aircraft was, who gave the licence for its purchase and whether the United Fruit Company had anything to do with it?

Mr. Lloyd: Certainly. We will try to find out whatever we can about an aircraft which, to whichever side it belonged, did a very wrong thing.

Mr. Strachey: If the Minister of State tells us that we should proceed on a *de facto* basis, should we not address our communications to the United Fruit Company?

Mr. Lloyd: We have no reason to believe that there is any truth at all in what the right hon. Gentleman is suggesting. Of course, one advantage of the present *de facto* set up is that it appears to be a coalition of old and new elements in the Guatemalan Government. In those circumstances, we are pressing our claim with the new Guatemalan Government.

Colonel Gomme-Duncan: Is my right hon. and learned Friend aware that the two colonels concerned have been photographed kissing each other, so is not the show all over?

Mr. Bing: Will the Minister say when the 39 men—whom he has accepted as this "much exaggerated" event—obtained the napalm bombs which were put down on the British ship, and how the aircraft came into the possession of the rebels? Will he not ask the United States Government if they sold the ammunition to the rebels?

Mr. Lloyd: This is a matter to be investigated, but the hon. and learned Gentleman, in assuming that the United States Government are responsible in some way for this, is, I believe, stating something which is wholly divorced from the truth.

Mr. Marquand: After the British ship had been bombed did the right hon. Gentleman instruct the new British representative to fly at once to Guatemala or

did he tell him on no account to interrupt his holiday?

Mr. Lloyd : That is quite an unfair remark. The British representative was doing his best to get to Guatemala City, but it was impossible for him to get there. He was not on holiday at all, and I think that it is a quite irresponsible smear to have made a remark of that sort. The minute this incident happened Her Majesty's representatives in all these countries were instructed to make urgent inquiries.

28. **Mr. Wigg** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what action the Security Council took with regard to the complaint made by Guatemala regarding the machine-gunning and bombing by foreign aircraft of Guatemala's civilian population; and what part the British delegate took in the discussion of this matter.

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd : The complaint of the Guatemalan authorities was considered by the Security Council on 20th June. A resolution referring the complaint to the Organisation of American States for urgent consideration and requesting the Organisation of American States to inform the Security Council as soon as possible on the measures it had been able to take was vetoed by the representative of the Soviet Union. The Security Council then unanimously approved a resolution calling for the immediate termination of any action likely to cause bloodshed and requesting all members of the United Nations to abstain from giving assistance to any such action.

Mr. Wigg : Will the Minister be good enough to answer "Yes," or "No," to a simple question? Is it a fact that American aircraft, manned by American pilots, machine-gunned Guatemalan civilians and dropped napalm bombs on Guatemala, and that Her Majesty's Government were well aware of that fact?

Mr. Lloyd : That is certainly not the case. Her Majesty's Government have no information of that kind whatsoever.

Sir R. Acland : In view of the unsatisfactory nature of all the answers to all these Questions about Guatemala, may I appeal to you, Mr. Speaker, to rule

that if the matter is not otherwise debated between now and then it shall be debated for at least two hours on the Adjournment for the Summer Recess?

Mr. Speaker : I shall consider that question along with the many other requests which I have received.

Disturbances (Information)

23. **Dr. Stross** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what information he received from the Government of Guatemala prior to the recent disturbances, indicating the danger of armed attack and the details of the bombing of open towns and villages with consequent danger to British subjects; and whether he will publish the whole of the correspondence as a White Paper.

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd : Last January, Her Majesty's Legation at Guatemala City received a copy of a statement which the Guatemalan Government had issued to the Press about the plans of Guatemalan exiles. No other communication received before the disturbances began indicated the danger of armed attack.

As I have already said, I am issuing a White Paper on this subject.

Dr. Stross : Does the right hon. and learned Gentleman mean that he received, during the disturbances, cables stating exactly what was happening and what risks were being undergone by British subjects in the territory? Is he aware that it is important that the fullest information should be made available, so that we should know whether this was an old type of civil war of insurrection, or whether it was the iron heel in action?

Mr. Lloyd : I certainly think the hon. Gentleman's request is very reasonable, and I will seek to give the fullest possible information in the White Paper.

Mr. Foot : When the right hon. and learned Gentleman talks of getting the facts from the Fact-Finding Committee, is it not a fact that now that the aggression has paid, the Fact-Finding Committee is to be wound up?

Mr. Lloyd : I have never limited myself to saying that we only seek to get the facts from the Fact-Finding Committee. In answer to an earlier question, I said that we had no power to insist upon that,

but we will certainly do all we can to see that the full facts are found.

Mr. A. Henderson : I understood the Minister to say that Her Majesty's Government did not intend that the outcome of this revolution should prevent the Security Council from inquiring into this question whether there had been an act of aggression. How can they do that if there is no report of the facts received by them? Are we to understand now from the Minister that the Fact-Finding Committee has been wound up and that there is no independent body making any investigation into the facts in Guatemala?

Mr. Lloyd : I think the right hon. Gentleman has misunderstood me. All I was saying, in answer to the hon. Member for Devonport (Mr. Foot), was that Her Majesty's Government were not limiting their sources of information to anything that might be discovered by the Fact-Finding Committee. To my knowledge the Fact-Finding Committee has not been wound up, but has simply returned from Mexico City to Washington.

Official Correspondence (Publication)

27. **Mr. Wigg** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will publish a White Paper containing the correspondence, diplomatic notes and other correspondence which have passed between Her Majesty's Government and the Government of Guatemala from April, 1953, to the present date.

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd : I will consider this in connection with the White Paper to which I referred in my reply to the hon. Member for South Ayrshire (Mr. Emrys Hughes).

Mr. Wigg : I thank the right hon. and learned Gentleman for that reply. Will he be good enough to include in that statement all the Notes which were issued following the bombardment of Corfu? Before congratulating himself on the fact that the Guatemalan aggression has fizzled out will he bear in mind that it was this kind of fighting which led to the First World War, and what is now happening in Guatemala might produce a similar result?

Mr. Lloyd : If any White Paper covered all the similar incidents which have happened in the past it would be a very long one indeed.

Mr. Strachey : Does the right hon. and learned Gentleman agree that the replies which he has made on the question of Guatemala this afternoon indicate that Her Majesty's Government's policy is that intervention by the United Nations in cases of aggression is premature before that aggression has succeeded?

Mr. Lloyd : The right hon. Gentleman knows quite well that that is not the position. In this case there is a body of the States concerned, of which Guatemala is a member and to whose charter she has subscribed, and that body was admirably placed to take such steps as were necessary. As Argentina and Mexico are both members of the Organisation, I should have thought there could be no doubt about the balance of opinion in the Fact-Finding Committee.

Mr. Peyton : Does the Minister agree that, summarising the Questions which have been asked by the party opposite, it is the opinion of that party that we should intervene in a civil war?

Mrs. Castle : Does the right hon. and learned Gentleman agree that the action of the British delegate on the Security Council was designed to give time for this aggression to succeed, and that if this country had wished to avoid delay in the handling of this matter the best way would have been for the Security Council to have handled it itself, in which case Russia would not have vetoed the proposals?

Mr. Lloyd : The hon. Lady is misinformed. The Russian veto took place on 20th June. The British Government took the action they did because there was no other way in which progress could have been made. I do not believe that any other resolution would have escaped a veto.

ANGLO-CHINESE TRADE

5. **Mr. Warbey** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what progress is being made in the negotiations for the restoration of normal trade with China.

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd : Her Majesty's Government are not at present engaged in any negotiations about trade with China. The hon. Member no doubt has in mind the talks between the Sino-British Trade Committee, representing

various prominent British manufacturing and trading organisations, and a party of Chinese trade experts. It is too early yet to assess what progress is being made in these talks. The Chinese delegation is at present visiting factories, and talks will be resumed on its return to London.

Mr. Warbey : In view of the fact that there has been an armistice in Korea for two years, is it not high time that trade relations with China were normalised, or at least put on the same basis as with the countries of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union? What steps are the Government taking towards this end?

Mr. Lloyd : I quite agree with the hon. Gentleman that the Korean armistice was a step in the right direction. I think that the next step to take is to stop the fighting in Indo-China.

Mr. Shinwell : Is there not a Chinese delegation in this country at the present time—I think it arrived the other day—and would it not be desirable, apart from manufacturers here receiving its members, that they should be received by the President of the Board of Trade, or by an appropriate Government Department?

Mr. Lloyd : That is a question for my right hon. Friend the President of the Board of Trade.

Mr. Bottomley : As trade with China is on a different basis from East-West trade generally, can the right hon. and learned Gentleman say whether the visit of the President of the Board of Trade to America was in connection with trade with China?

Mr. Lloyd : I think not.

Mr. Shinwell : If it is a matter for the President of the Board of Trade, will the right hon. and learned Gentleman, on behalf of the Foreign Office, make it quite clear that the Foreign Office would raise no objection if the President wished to see the members of this delegation?

Mr. Lloyd : I will certainly draw the attention of my right hon. Friend the President of the Board of Trade to the right hon. Gentleman's suggestion.

14. **Mr. H. Wilson** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will now initiate discussions in the United Nations

to modify the resolution of 18th May, 1951, regarding trade with China, so that strategic controls on exports to that country are brought into line with those on exports to Eastern Europe.

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd : No, Sir. We must await the outcome of the Geneva Conference before we can consider whether any such discussions should be initiated.

Mr. Wilson : Does that answer and that given to the hon. Member for Broxtowe (Mr. William Warbey), mean that the Government insist on awaiting a political settlement in Korea before considering that reasonably normal trading relations between China and Britain are possible? If so, does it not give Syngman Rhee a veto?

Mr. Lloyd : I said that we should await the outcome of the Geneva Conference, which is dealing not only with Korea but with Indo-China.

Mr. Wilson : But since the boycott was put on in 1951 because of aggression in Korea, and since fighting has stopped there, is there any good reason why relations with China should not be on the same basis as those with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe?

BRITISH FOREIGN POLICY

8. **Mr. A. Henderson** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the extent to which the five principles of peace recently agreed between the Indian and Chinese Prime Ministers, a copy of which has been sent him, form part of British foreign policy.

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd : British foreign policy is based upon the principles set forth in Article 2 of the United Nations Charter. The five principles to which the right hon. and learned Member refers seem to be generally consistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter.

GREEK DIPLOMAT, LONDON (BRITISH CLAIM)

9. **Mr. Hector Hughes** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he is aware of the case of the diplomat in the Greek Embassy in London, particulars of which have been sent to him, against whom a common law claim by a

British subject for damages for personal injuries caused by his negligence in driving a motor car in England has been made but who pleads in defence diplomatic immunity; and what steps he intends to take to enable justice to be done to the British subject who has been so injured.

The Joint Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Douglas Dodds-Parker): Yes, Sir. I have studied the information which the hon. and learned Member has so kindly forwarded to me. The diplomat concerned left the United Kingdom in May last on the termination of his appointment at the Greek Embassy. He is no longer regarded as having any immunity from the jurisdiction of the English courts.

I am informed that the diplomat carried automobile insurance against third party risks, but that the insurance company concerned has failed to meet the claim. Inquiries are being made as to the grounds on which liability has been denied. Appropriate measures will be taken in the light of the information obtained.

Mr. Hughes: Will the Minister say what are the appropriate measures designed and calculated to protect the British citizen who was injured, and see that the doctrine of immunity is not carried too far in this matter?

Mr. Dodds-Parker: I will do that. It may interest the House to know that an arrangement has been in force since 1935 under which all companies have given an undertaking not to avail themselves of diplomatic immunity in order to evade compliance with their obligations under automobile policies.

BURMA (CHINESE NATIONALIST TROOPS)

10. **Mr. Noel-Baker** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs how many Chinese Nationalist troops have been evacuated from Burmese soil in pursuance of the Resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations; how many still remain; and whether the evacuation is still continuing.

Mr. Dodds-Parker: I have received no report of further evacuation since my right hon. and learned Friend informed

the House on 2nd June that 6,900 persons had been evacuated, including about 1,400 dependents. General Li Mi, the former commander of the troops in Burma, announced on 30th May that his headquarters had been disbanded because all the troops answering his orders had been evacuated. No further evacuation is in progress.

Mr. Noel-Baker: Am I right in understanding that the Committee set up at the request of the United Nations Assembly is still in existence, and that if further evacuations are required they will be carried out?

Mr. Dodds-Parker: Yes, Sir. As I understand, under the resolution debated by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 8th December, 1953, it is primarily the responsibility of the Government of Burma to report on the situation to the General Assembly if they so desire.

Mr. Noel-Baker: Did the Foreign Minister of Burma, when in this country, say whether he was satisfied with the arrangements made?

Mr. Dodds-Parker: I have no information on the point, but I will make inquiries and let the right hon. Gentleman know.

Mr. Smithers: Is the Minister aware that the Parliamentary delegation which recently visited Burma was unanimously of the opinion that the evacuation of these troops had been of the greatest possible help in the matter of the restoration of law and order there—which is a British interest—and that a good many guerilla troops remained? Will he see that everything in our power is done to get them taken away?

Mr. Dodds-Parker: Certainly, if the Government of Burma make a complaint.

Mr. Donnelly: Is there not a difference between the number evacuated and the number originally there? Will the Minister look into the matter and give us some figures at a later date?

Mr. Dodds-Parker: I think that the estimate of 12,000 as the total number of K.M.T. in Burma was never sacrosanct. It has never been possible to make an accurate check as the troops included a considerable number of local adherents

who either dispersed or reverted to banditry with the removal of the hard core of foreign troops.

BACTERIOLOGICAL WARFARE CONVENTION (N.A.T.O. RATIFICATION)

17. **Mr. Emrys Hughes** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs which of the Governments of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation have not yet ratified the convention agreeing not to resort to bacteriological warfare.

Mr. Dodds-Parker : The United States and Iceland.

Mr. Hughes : As Her Majesty's Government have ratified the anti-bacteriological convention, does not the Minister think that we should approach both Iceland and the United States so that there can be some co-ordination of policy on germ warfare among all the countries in N.A.T.O.?

Mr. Dodds-Parker : No. The convention in question is the Geneva Protocol, signed on 17th June, 1925. As far as the United States Government is concerned, it is as anxious as any other to achieve the prohibition of this type of warfare. Its position has been explained to the Disarmament Commission. They themselves proposed in 1952 that the disarmament Commission should provide for the elimination of all major weapons of destruction, including bacteriological weapons.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS

19. **Mr. Sorensen** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he has any further statement to give the House in respect of Anglo-Egyptian relations.

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd : As I said in reply to a Question in this House on 2nd June, it is still the intention of Her Majesty's Government to seek to reach a suitable agreement with the Egyptian Government. I have nothing to add to that at present.

Mr. Sorensen : Would the Minister at least indicate chronologically what progress has been made? Are we likely to have the result announced in the relatively near future?

Mr. Lloyd : Not in the relatively near future, I think.

Mr. Shinwell : Has the right hon. and learned Gentleman seen a statement in the Press purporting to be from a speech delivered by a high-ranking Egyptian spokesman the other day to the effect that when the British troops evacuated the Suez Canal Zone that would be a useful opportunity to make an attack on Israel? Has he seen that statement? If so, what is his comment on it?

Mr. Lloyd : I have seen that statement. I think it would be very much to be deplored if that was the view of the Egyptian Government.

Mr. Shinwell : Has that statement been authenticated by Her Majesty's Government?

Mr. Lloyd : We have no reason to believe that the gentleman in question did not make that statement.

Mr. Amery : Does not my right hon. and learned Friend think that the statement by Major Salem, that

"We cannot fight in Palestine with the British lurking behind our backs."

creates conditions in which it is very difficult indeed to negotiate with the Egyptians about a withdrawal of British fighting troops from the Canal Zone?

Mr. Lloyd : I certainly think the statement was reprehensible.

ANGLO-IRANIAN OIL DISPUTE

20. **Mr. Sorensen** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the present position in respect of a settlement of the Anglo-Iranian Oil dispute.

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd : Negotiators representing the eight oil companies went back to Tehran on 19th June and have resumed discussions with the Persian Government. These continue in a most cordial atmosphere and progress has been made on a number of matters.

Mr. Sorensen : Would the right hon. and learned Gentleman say what is happening to the oil installations? To what extent are they working?

Mr. Lloyd : That is a difficult question, of which I should like notice.

UNITED NATIONS CHARTER (CHAPTER VIII)

21. **Mr. Hale** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what at present are the competent regional arrangements or agencies within the meaning of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter for the maintenance of international peace or security and through which the Security Council can encourage the settlement of local disputes ; and what was the date of recognition of each such arrangement or agency.

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd : The United Nations Charter does not provide for the recognition of regional arrangements or agencies. In practice, the Organisation of American States has been regarded as such an agency and is the only one in respect of which Her Majesty's Government consider the position to be clear. The Charter of the Organisation of American States came into force in 1948.

Mr. Hale : Are we to understand, as the Question takes the precise words of the Charter, that no other member of the United Nations was ever aware that Her Majesty's Government recognised this organisation until the moment when recognition was effected and that the matter has never been brought before the full Council or the Security Council until this reference was made?

Mr. Lloyd : I do not think there is any provision in the Charter for this process of recognition.

E.D.C. TREATY (RATIFICATION)

25. **Mr. Bing** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the nature of the communication sent jointly to the Government of France by Her Majesty's Government and the Government of the United States of America in regard to the ratification of the European Defence Community agreement.

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd : No such communication has been made. The view of Her Majesty's Government and the United States Government on the question of ratification of the European Defence Community Treaty is set out in the statement issued in Washington on 28th June by President Eisenhower and my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister.

Mr. Bing : Is the right hon. and learned Gentleman telling the House that a decision with regard to Germany was arrived at in Washington but was not communicated to the ally who, perhaps, suffered more than any other ally in the last war?

Mr. Lloyd : If the hon. and learned Gentleman will read the statement which has been issued he will see exactly what it says.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA (REGIONAL ORGANISATION)

26. **Mr. Bing** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will take the initiative in having set up a regional organisation for South-East Asia, confined to and including all States in that area, of a type similar to that existing on the American Continent to which the Security Council can delegate its authority.

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd : I have nothing to add to what my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said in his speech on 23rd June.

Mr. Bing : The Minister has just said that a regional organisation is the simplest and best method of dealing with these matters. Will he not now use his initiative in setting up, for the South-East Asian States, an arrangement of a type similar to that of the Monroe Powers on the American Continent, to which all such matters can be referred?

Mr. Lloyd : What I have said referred only to the Organisation of American States. If the hon. and learned Gentleman will read what my right hon. Friend said, he will see what kind of arrangements he had in mind as being suitable for South-East Asia.

B.B.C. OVERSEAS BROADCASTS

29. **Mr. Ernest Davies** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs how many programme hours per week the British Broadcasting Corporation was transmitting overseas in 1947 ; the number currently broadcast ; and how this compares with the number of programme hours broadcast at that time and now by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and its satellites.