

India Lawmakers Attack CIA in Svetlana Furor

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NEW DELHI, March 20. The Indian Parliament sharply criticized the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency today. Criticism came from representatives of all political parties including the government's own Congress Party, not just the Communists.

India's Minister of External Affairs, M. C. Chagla, a one-time ambassador to the United States, was thrust into the seemingly impossible position of having to defend both his

own government and America on the issue.

Parliamentarians charged that:

- The U.S. Embassy in New Delhi has 77 people listed as "attaches" who are really "CIA spies and espionage agents." Chagla countered that this was "a serious charge to make against the embassy of a friendly country" and asked the accuser, a "rightwing" Communist member of Parliament, to present specifics so that proper action might be taken.

- The CIA had "interfered in the recent general elections to defeat 44 "progressive" candidates. Chagla called this charge "wild and baseless."

- It was the CIA that "whisked away" the late Soviet dictator Josef Stalin's daughter, Svetlana, when she defected here two weeks ago. Chagla said the U.S. Embassy here "categorically and emphatically" denied press reports that Embassy Second Secretary Robert Rayle, who squired Svetlana aboard her chartered airliner to Switzerland, belonged to CIA. The Embassy refused to comment when queried.

- Two of India's most important Cabinet members. Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Morarji Desai and Commerce Minister Dinesh Singh, were "connected" with the Indian branch of the World Assembly of Youth and the government Congress Party's youth wing, both of which received funds from CIA conduit foundations. Desai rose to defend himself, declaring amidst cries of "Shame," that he is chairman of the Indian branch of the World Assembly of

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Youth. But he added that both West German and American money had been used to construct a youth hostel in India and the money will be refunded if investigation proves the money is from the CIA.

Commerce Minister Singh, whom the Soviet Embassy has been blaming for allowing Svetlana to defect, was not allowed to defend himself. He was told to write his reply to the Speaker of the House. External Affairs Minister Chagla added that many groups "innocently" accepted money not knowing that the source was CIA.

• The government is permitting the International Secretariat for Volunteer Service, "whose General Secretary is a top CIA official actively connected with the Peace Corps and other espionage networks," to hold its annual meeting in India's capital next week under the auspices of the government Planning Commission. Chagla said he knew of no connection between the Secretariat and CIA.

However, a report in India's Daily Statesman today de-

clared that the government, finding it too late to back out of a suspect conference which was inviting delegates from South Africa, Portugal and Nationalist China, at least was cancelling Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's promised address.

• More than the equivalent of \$57 million in Indian rupees generated from the sale here of American Public Law 480 food grains is "unaccounted for" and subversive use is suspected. When this charge first was aired last year the American Embassy published an accounting sheet showing how the money is allocated.

Today's debate concluded with a demand that all CIA men in India be thrown out. The demand was made by a moderate, pro-Western Socialist.

The CIA question took top priority in Parliament, possibly because most Indians, government officials as well as politicians, have long been uneasy over their country's vulnerability to so much Ameri-

can foreign aid money and advisory manpower.

Since Parliament had adjourned when the story on CIA involvement with educational and philanthropic conduit foundations broke in America, this was the Indian Parliament's first crack at it. There will be more Tuesday.

Chagla promised a formal statement, the government's first, on the defection from India of Miss Stalin.