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SECRET/IMMEDIATE

No. F.8(51)/63/Border Cell,

Government of India,
Ministry of Defence,
New Delhi, the 5th August, 1963.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

[draft]

Subject: - Rajya Sabha Starred Question D.No. 636, by shri Bansi Lal for 16.8.1963, regarding Chinese Military posts in demilitarised zone in Ladakh.

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The undersigned is directed to refer to this Ministry's Office Memorandum No. F.51/QRS-XLIV/63/ D(Parl), dated the 26th July 1963, on the above subject, and to furnish the following information in connection with the above Question: -

A Chinese post was observed approximately 1200 yards North East of Depsang La, two miles North of Qizil Langar in the first week of June. The post was not found there at the end of June. The Chinese appear to have moved their post from this area, presumably as a result of the protest lodged by the Government of India.

2. In this connection, attention is also invited to GS Branch (M.I. Dte) u.o.No. 16564/GSI(t)(i), dated the 6th July 1963, a copy of which was sent to Foreign Secretary.

(RAJ PAL)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

To
Ministry of External Affairs
(Shri A.P. Venkateswaren)

NOTE FOR SUPPLEMENTARIES

(Rajya Sabha Started Question No. 80 for 16.8.1963)

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The Colombo Proposals in regard to the Western Sector was that the Chinese troops should withdraw 20 Kilometres east of the so-called "line of actual control" as on the 7th November, 1959. Indian troops were to remain in their existing military positions on or up to this line. Since the demilitarized zone was to be administered by both India and China, the reference to an "Inside side" of the zone in the question is inaccurate. Early in June an Indian patrol in that area observed a Chinese post approximately 1200 yards North East of the Depsang La, two miles north of the Qizil Langer.

A strong protest note was lodged with the Chinese Government against the setting up of this post on the 17th June, 1963. The Chinese Government in reply denied the existence of such a post. Subsequent verification indicated that the Chinese had been in the area and that they later demolished the structure put up by them which was indicated by large white patches on the ground.

NOTE FOR SUPPLEMENTARIES

(On Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 80 for 16.8.63)

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After the massive Chinese aggression of October-November last, six Afro-Asian Powers (Ceylon, Burma, Indonesia, Cambodia, Ghana, and U.A.R.) met in Colombo to find a formula by which India and China could be brought back to the negotiation table. As a result of their deliberations a formula was agreed upon and it was recommended to China and India as the basis for consolidating the cease-fire and for negotiations, by the Colombo Powers. The details of the proposals are well-known and these were discussed in Parliament between January 21st and 23rd, 1963.

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As far as the application of the Proposals in Western Sector went, it was suggested that to consolidate cease-fire, the Chinese troops should withdraw 20 kms. East of so-called "line of actual control" as on the 7th of November, 1959. Indian troops were to remain where they were.

The demilitarized zone so create in between the withdrawn position of the Chinese troops and the static position of the Indian troops was to be manned by civil check-post of both India and China.

Details regarding these were to be discussed after the Chinese had accepted the Colombo Proposals and implemented them. The demilitarized zones to be created by the proposed withdrawals were to be during the period of ceasefire and negotiations, a neutral area.

We had agreed to the above suggestions, so there is no question of there being on Indian side of the demilitarized zone in the Western Sector. Had we also been asked to withdraw further into our own

territory perhaps there could be an Indian side. But in view of the facts as they are the question of an Indian part

In the demilitarized zone does not arise.

We conveyed the acceptance of the proposals partly described above to the Government of Ceylon on the 26th of January, 1963 when the Prime Minister wrote a letter conveying our acceptance of the proposals in toto to the Ceylon Prime Minister. But even before this, on January 8th 1963 Premier Chou En-lai had written to Mrs. Bandarenaike informing her of the Chinese reservations on the Colombo Proposals. In another letter dated the 21st March, 1963 Premier Chou En-lai alleged that clarifications given to the Colombo Proposals at Peking were different from the clarifications given to the Proposals at Delhi when the three representatives of the Colombo Powers (U.A.R., Ghana, and Ceylon) visited Delhi between the 9th and 16th of January, 1963. After making these accusations, the Chinese Government unilaterally took certain steps to implement a ceasefire on our border. The steps which they took were in contravention of the Colombo Proposals.

In a note dated 2nd of March, 1963, the Chinese Government informed the Government of India of the details regarding the unilateral ceasefire steps taken by them.

As regards the Western Sector the Government of India were informed that the Chinese Government had set up 7 civil checkpoints in the Western Sector of the border. One of these was set up North of the Karakoram Pass. The remaining six checkpoints were in the 20 kms. Demilitarized zone created by Chinese withdrawals in Ladakh.

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