

ANSWER: I am convinced that if there had been the slightest suspicion that it could be directed against India that it would not be agreed to.

QUESTION: Our Government has been saying that we do not think it is in our favour. Then how do you say it is not against us?

ANSWER: Well I am not saying that you haven't the right to feel that it could operate against you. I was asked whether there was any intent to extend military aid to be used against India. Well, I am convinced there wouldn't be 1 per cent of the American public that would go along if it was proposed to extend military aid to any nation directed against India.

QUESTION: Sir, do you visualize any possibility that a country which is the recipient of such aid might misuse it? (Syngman Rhee for example?)

ANSWER: Well here I think I will have to fall back on Mr. Malik's statement that it is only those who don't do anything who do not make mistakes. Now it may be that it is only those who have no arms whatsoever who are never in a position to misuse them.

QUESTION: One more question, Sir. Did you get the impression during the course of your talks with Mr. Nehru that but for the presence of the Kashmir problem India might not have raised such a serious objection to military aid?

ANSWER: Well, I would not like to speak for Mr. Nehru and of course my conversations with him were confidential and he was endeavouring to inform me, to instruct me, and I think it would be improper for me to say anything that might be construed as divulging a confidential conversation with the Prime Minister of India.

QUESTION: What would be the Commonwealth reaction if India looks to Russia for aid, for military aid?

ANSWER: The Commonwealth reaction would not be a Commonwealth reaction. It would be a reaction of nations who form part of the Commonwealth because each one is its own master in its domestic and in its foreign policies. There is no central Commonwealth organization and no Commonwealth meeting of Prime Ministers attempts to tell any member of the Commonwealth what he should do or what he should not do.

Questioner: Why I asked was because Mr. Eden in London yesterday said that this question about aid to Pakistan is just one friendly power giving aid to a member of the Commonwealth.