

nance which deals *inter alia* with aggregate residence qualification was however not amended and that qualification applicable to blind persons was left at 20 years. It is therefore clear that the relevant section of the Ordinance needs amendment so as to remove the anomaly concerning the aggregate residence qualification of blind persons in Mauritius.

I therefore commend the Bill to the House.

Mr. Ringadoo : *rose and seconded.*

Mr. Ollivry (First Member for Rodrigues): Sir, on behalf of the Opposition I welcome this Bill. I think, the question was raised in this House some time ago by the Opposition and I am glad that the Government has now taken steps to implement this measure which, I think, is a very good one, and which, I hope, will be approved by all hon. Members in this House.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time and committed.

THE UNITED NATIONS BILL (No. XXIII of 1968)

Order for second reading read.

Sir S. Ramgoolam : Sir, I beg to move that the United Nations Bill (No. XXIII of 1968) be read a *second* time.

The object of this Bill is quite clear as is stated in the explanatory memorandum, and I would not like to go at length into the principles involved. As a member of the United Nations, Mauritius has to fulfil its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations. Article 41 of the Charter provides that the Security Council may call upon members of the United Nations to

apply measures to give effect to its decisions.

Only this morning on our local stations my speech to the United Nations ended with the promise, and the desire of this country to associate itself with all the decisions of the United Nations. I have also in my speech said that we are going to fulfil all the obligations under the United Nations Charter, and in this we will do so with courage and determination, specially at a time when the United Nations is dealing with very difficult problems affecting the dignity of the human race in Africa. In this, Sir, we are all united, and, I am sure, this Bill will only consecrate what independence has brought to this country.

Mr. Ringadoo *rose and seconded.*

Mr. Ollivry : I have not much to say on this Bill which, I think, is the normal sequel of independence and of our membership of the United Nations. The only point which I find is that the regulations which are to be made under the Act when it is assented to, will not be held to be invalid even if they are repugnant to any law. Of course, it is a matter which will have to be dealt with by the Judiciary, but I take it that this does not mean that measures will be taken which are contrary to our Constitution. I take it that the regulations will be such as are consonant with what has been agreed and implemented in our Constitution, and, in any case, I know that if they are against the Constitution, the citizen will have redress in Court. I only want to know from the hon. Prime Minister, when he winds up, what exactly he means about the invalidity of the regulations.

Sir S. Ramgoolam : I do not think there is anything which is contradictory as far as our Constitution is concerned. The hon. Member belonging

to the legal profession, knows quite well. It is not necessary to tantalise me on this issue.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time and committed.

THE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BILL (No. XXIV of 1968)

Order for second reading read.

Sir S. Ramgoolam : I beg to move that the Diplomatic Relations Bill (No. XXIV of 1968) be read a *second* time.

The main object of this Bill, Sir, is to give effect to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961. It provides for the privileges and immunities of diplomatic relations set up in Mauritius and their staff in accordance with the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations done at Vienna on the 18th of April, 1961.

Clause 3 gives the force of law to the Articles of the Convention which are set out in the Schedule, and which cannot be implemented without legislation.

Clause 4 of the Bill confers power to withdraw privileges and immunities by Order where there is no reciprocity.

Clause 5 enables any fact relating to diplomatic missions and their staff to be proved by a certificate issued by or under the authority of the Minister responsible for foreign affairs.

The Bill, as far as I understand, Sir, is non-controversial, and I beg to move the second reading.

Mr. Ringadoo *rose and seconded.*

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time and committed.

COMMITTEE STAGE

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

The following Bills were considered and agreed to:—

- (a) The Old Age Pensions (Amendment) Bill (No. XXII of 1968)
- (b) The United Nations Bill (No. XXIII of 1968)
- (c) The Diplomatic Relations Bill (No. XXIV of 1968)

On the Assembly resuming with the Deputy Speaker in the Chair, the Deputy Speaker reported accordingly.

Third Reading

On motion made and seconded, the following Bills were read the *third* time and passed:—

- (a) The Old Age Pensions (Amendment) Bill (No. XXII of 1968)
- (b) The United Nations Bill (No. XXIII of 1968)
- (c) The Diplomatic Relations Bill (No. XXIV of 1968)

ADJOURNMENT

Sir S. Ramgoolam : Sir, I beg to move that the Assembly do now adjourn to Tuesday, the 28th May, 1968 at 11.30 a.m.

Mr. Ringadoo : *rose and seconded.*

At 12.10 p.m., the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Tuesday, the 28th May, 1968 at 11.30 a.m.