

G â\200\234\E

Gandh

NEW DELHI â\200\224 The Indian Government has launched an official investigation into a reported plan to make illegal payments to Mrs. Indira Gandhi while she was Prime Minister.

Authorities raiding an office of Parle and Bisleri, a joint Indo-Italian soft

drink firm found a letter

suggesting an R85 000 payoff to Mrs. Gandhi that would be deposited in a Hong Kong bank, a top Government official told Parliament here.

However, the Deputy Finance Minister, Mr. Satish Aggarwal, said the payment had not been

LV [

{o

I

made because Mrs. Gandhi was defeated in the 1977 national election which ended her 11-year rule.

In his statement to Parliament, Mr. Aggarwal did not disclose all the facts in the case, but he did say the Italian managing director of Bisleri, Dr. C. Rossi, had written a letter to an unidentified person aboard suggesting the payoff to Mrs. Gandhi to help along a deal on the political level for the import of 3 000 tons of polyester fibre.

The probe is the fourth inquiry into alleged abuses by Mrs. Gandhiâ\200\231s Govern-

ment, ordered by Prime

e

Minister Morarji Desaiâ\200\231s Government since it came

to power two years ago.
The other three were commissions of inquiry presided over by retired judges of the Supreme Court.

A commission indicted Mrs. Gandhi, her son, Sanjay, and leading aides for excesses committed during the authoritarian state of emergency lasting from 1975 to 1977.

Mrs. Gandhi and Mr. Sanjay Gandhi refused to testify before one of the commissions and are now standing trial for their refusal.

Mrs. Gandhi faces criminal charges in four

Minister gets

The ĩ¬\202nĭ¬\202/ĭ¬\201u{uâ\200\224ĭ¬\202a mMÃ@s

ough

A

d

1o 1979

jobâ\200\231

Mr. Moynihan was U.S. Ambassador to India from 1973-75.

Mrs. Gandhi .called the pay-off charge â\200\230â\200\230totally

baseless and mis-"chievousâ\200\235â\200\231. ;
I certainly did not know

about it,â\200\235â\200\231 she said. â\200\230â\200\234â\200\230How could I?â\200\235

Meanwhile, Parliament has given its final approval to legislation setting up special courts to try Mrs. Gandhi and members of her . former Government for alleged excesses during the state of emergency. â\200\224

(Sapa-AP.)

fâ\200\230â\200\234â\200\230â\200\234pwiâ\200\230?ibes d
1 â\200\230bribesâ\200\231

other cases. In one, she

. was arrested in October

1977 for alleged violations |
of Indiaâ\200\231s Prevention of
Corruption Act, but was
released the following day

- on grounds of insufficient

evidence.

The 61-year-old Opposi-
tion leader was expelled
from Parliament and
jailed for a week last
December after .she was
found guilty of breach of
privilege and contempt of
the Lower House while in
office.

Failed

The controversial Mrs.
Gandhi hit the headlines
again when she failed to
make a second appearance
this week before an inquiry
commission in Imphal ;
eastern India, in-
vestigating her role in the
detention of local politi-
cians during . the
emergency.

On Monday she defended
the imposition of the
emergency, under which
thousands of her critics â\200\224
including Desai, then an
Opposition leader â\200\224 were
imprisoned.

On her way to New Delhi
from Imphal, capital of |
Manipur State, Mrs. '
Gandhi said in Calcutta
that charges by an '
American Senator, Mr.
Daniel Patrick Moynihan,
that she received secret
pay-offs from the U.S.
Government were part of a
â\200\230â\200\230cooked-up conspiracyâ\200\231â\200\231
between the New York
Democrat and Americaâ\200\231s
Central Intelligence

Agency.
American

In a 1978 book, A

Dangerous Place, Mr.
Moynihan alleged Mrs.
Gandhi and her Congress
Party and received
American money to fight
communists in two 'State
elections.

