

Fundamental Rights Front

The Party's campaign to protect the Fundamental Rights of our people is now well under way since the General Secretary's letter to readers of the *Newsletter* in December last year (*Swatantra Newsletter* No. 70 Oct.-Dec., 1969).

A Fundamental Rights Front has been set with former Chief Justice of India K. Subba Rao as Chair-

man. The Front is strictly non-partisan and open to all those who subscribe to the sanctity of Fundamental Rights. But for administrative convenience, the entire activity will be coordinated through the National Headquarters of the Party in Bombay.

Annexure to this issue carries extracts from a circular issued to the Party's State/Regional Units. P/1616

Cambodia

The Party's Founder Rajaji and its President Mr. Masani have both welcomed U.S. action in Cambodia. Wrote Rajaji in his 'Dear Reader' Column of *Swarajya* (May 9):

"US News and World Report of May 4 has a report from its Staff correspondent in Cambodia that Cambodia is on the verge of collapse. Communist Vietcong and North Vietnamese forces are moving everywhere in that country 'almost at will'. America's isolationism is helping Mao's goal to be attained.

We are told by the same journal that Soviet officials are puzzled and ask: "Is the US abdicating all responsibility for the rest of the world?"

While fighting men are being withdrawn by the US everywhere, arms sales are brisk, 1.3 billions a year. "Sales help keep the dollar strong" observes *US News and World Report*. The dollar may remain strong, but it seems that the Communist world dream is getting nearer to fulfilment. The opposition between Moscow and Peking cannot be always taken for granted.

I am amazed at the caption and the contents of Mr. Reddy's message to the *Hindu* from Delhi about the latest phase of Cambodia affairs. We are told by Mr. Reddy, and he no doubt correctly conveys the ruling group's mind, that India is appalled at the US intervention in Cambodia as it is contrary to the previous declarations and indications of President Nixon. The message which Sri B. K. Tiwari has sent from Hong Kong to the *Indian Express* on 2nd May is more important. Mao Tse-tung appeared in public on May 1 along with Sihanouk of Cambodia and reiterated his slogan that Asia is Red. Mao is reported to have decided to take charge of the Cambodia war.

That the defence of non-communist Asia against Communist aggression should be the concern of those nations, and they must take steps to come together and be independent of American or other assistance, is a good long-term policy. But long-term wisdom is irrelevant in the present context of Hanoi and Vietcong forces threatening effective and immediate seizure of Cambodia over and above South Vietnam. It will take some time, to put it at the least, before the nations of non-communist Asia, Taiwan and Japan and Australia come together and organize a common defence programme against Communist ambitions. Immediate action is what the present Hanoi-Vietcong-Mao movement in Cambodia demands. What has forced President Nixon to intervene in Cambodia despite the misguided heavy pressure of "peace-lovers" in America to leave Asia to itself is the immediate emergency. Instead of India being appalled at Nixon's action, it should welcome it and support his prompt action.

My view of the danger to India is different from what New Delhi under the present guidance is taking. The present Government of India's views and policies will strengthen the Naxalites who are part of Mao's forces. The Communist dream of world domination is getting unintended support from India's misguided policies."

Addressing a Press Conference at Srinagar on May 11, Mr. Masani welcomed Rajaji's statements supporting President Nixon's action in Cambodia and said President Nixon had shown great courage in dealing with the Cambodian crisis.

Earlier on May 4, addressing a public meeting in Rourkela, the Swatantra President denounced the Union Government for following a policy of satellitism

to the Soviet Union which had culminated in its (Union Govt's) disgraceful refusal to join the conference called by Indonesia to consider measures for the defence of Cambodia against Chinese Communist and North Vietnamese aggression with the connivance of the quisling Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Mr. Masani went on to say that Mrs Gandhi and Mr. Dinesh Singh were obstructing every attempt being made to protect

that peaceful little country from being overrun by the Communists just as they had two years back tried to prevent the Indian Parliament from expressing its solidarity with little Czechoslovakia which was being overrun by the Soviets. He welcomed the entry of South Vietnamese and American forces into Cambodia to ward off the communist attack.

Rs 2 lakhs on Lenin Centenary

Several Swatantra M.P.s have in a joint letter to Education Minister V. K. R. V. Rao on 17th April protested against the move to celebrate Lenin's Centenary officially.

The M.P.s state that according to their information India was the only country outside Russia's satellites which was officially celebrating the Centenary.

There were several organisations which could do so. In the process Rs. 2 lakhs proposed to be spent by the Government on the centenary celebrations could be saved.

The M.P.s who include Messrs. Y. G. Gowd, K. M.

Koushik, R. R. Singh Deo, and Mr. D. N. Deb mentioned that a meeting specially organised for this purpose at Aligarh University under the Chairmanship of Dr. Alim, Vice-Chancellor was constantly disturbed by an overwhelming majority of students as they too resented the attempt at indoctrination. They raised anti-Lenin and anti-Communist slogans. The Vice Chancellor had to cut short his speech and leave the hall through the backdoor.

After this the students assembled in the hall and made speeches condemning the University authorities for celebrating Lenin's Centenary.

Anti-Naxalite Day

The Communist Party (M.L.) or the Naxalites as they are better known have, in recent months, resorted to violence with growing impunity. Not a day passes without reports of murders and other atrocities committed by the Naxalites. They openly proclaim Mao Tse-tung as their Leader and have been able to roam around at will certain parts of the countryside mostly in Bengal but also in certain districts of Bihar, Orissa and Andhra terrorising the villages, holding "people's courts" and "executing" village officials or those who resist Naxalite depredations — like the Vietcong in South Vietnam.

The Ruling Party, leaning on Communist support to retain power, has shown no determination to stamp out the Naxalites.

To focus public attention on the growing threat to the country's stability and freedom the National Headquarters called upon the Party's Units to observe May 24 as "Anti-Naxalite Activities Day".

The following are reports from the Party's Units in response to this call.

Punjab

Mr. N. S. Parwana, Joint Secretary of the Amritsar District Swatantra Party, reports that a general body meeting of the workers, sympathisers and well wishers of the Swatantra Party was held in Amritsar and presided over by Dr. Mehar Singh, President of the Amritsar District Unit and Vice-President of the Punjab Unit.

The meeting unanimously and strongly condemned the bomb explosion, presumably the handiwork of a Naxalite on the life of Prof. N. G. Ranga and those other people participating in the "Save Democracy Convention" at Patna on April 24, which reflects a calculated attempt to terrorise democratic forces.

"The Central Government have consistently failed to deal with this serious problem which now threatens to create a situation in which the Government may be compelled one day to quit the State of West Bengal and such other states, where Naxalite activities succeed."

"The Amritsar District Unit of the Swatantra Party joins the parent body in the countrywide agitation being started today to educate the masses and also to compel the Central Government to take appropriate action without any further delay." The meeting also decided to hold meetings henceforth in various constituency units, to propagate their cause and prepare the masses for the said purpose.

Public meetings and processions were also held at Gurudaspur, Patiala Nathana, Bhatinda and Rajpura.

Gujarat

Mr. Jayantbhai Bhatt, the Secretary of the Ahmedabad City Swatantra Party, reports that a meeting attended by the workers of the Ahmedabad City Swatantra Party and Ahmedabad District Swatantra Party was held in Ahmedabad. Mr. Suketu Shah presided and Mr. Navinbhai Patel, Mr. Devjibhai Parmar,

banned by the Government. The Naxalite outbreak was not due to any economic grievance or agrarian problem, but due to the collusion of Indian Communists with the Communist regime in China. Their aim was to create chaos in India and destroy democracy."

Mr. Sumatilal Shah said, "The Naxalites are receiving arms from the Chinese Communist regime," and they posed a danger to democracy and independence of India.

Pondichery

Mr. N. Mohammed Hussain reports that the Anti-Naxalite Day was observed by the Pondichery Regional Unit. Many posters depicting the horrors and atrocities of the Naxalites were displayed at all im-

portant centres of the town. Later, a public meeting was held, addressed by Mr. J. D. Selvaraj and Mr. N. Mohammed Hussain. The speakers demanded the banning of all varieties of Communist Parties and the immediate recall of the West Bengal Governor Mr. S. S. Dhavan, the well known crypto-Communist.

Rajasthan

Thakur Vikramsingh, Vice-President, Rajasthan State Unit, reports that in Jodhpur a huge procession was organised. A life size effigy of Mao Tse-tung was carried and the processionists shouted anti-Naxalite slogans. Mao's effigy was then burnt.

Mr. D. N. Patodia, M.P. reports that the Day was observed in Jalore by holding a public meeting.

Save Democracy Convention

The Leader of our Group in Parliament Prof. N. G. Ranga had a providential escape on April 24 when five bomb explosions in quick succession rocked the "Save Democracy Convention" in Patna.

The explosions occurred when Prof. Ranga was addressing the Convention organised by former Chief Minister Mr. Mahamaya Prasad Sinha.

Mahamaya Babu alleged that the miscreants shouted

"Mao Zindabad" at the time of throwing the bombs.

Prof. Ranga in the course of his speech charged that the Communists in collaboration with Mrs. Gandhi were conspiring to subvert Indian democracy.

In a message to the Convention Rajaji said: "The first and most important thing to do is for the leaders to forget their ego and do all they can for democracy and preservation of the Constitution."

Russian-Aided Public Undertakings

25 Swatantra and 8 Jan Sangh M.P.s have in a joint letter to the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi on 29th April 1970, drawn her attention to the heavy losses suffered by the public sector projects especially those run with Russian help. The following is an extract from the letter:

"The Public Undertakings Committee has recently submitted some reports in which they have brought out the glaring inefficiencies in regard to management of certain public sector undertakings, especially those being run with Russian help. The Committee in its latest report said that the work on the second stage of Bokaro Steel Project should not proceed without proper techno-economic reappraisal because the first stage of the Project itself is likely to incur a running loss of Rs. 20 crores every year. The original estimate for completion of the first stage of Bokaro Steel Plant was Rs. 590 crores which was subsequently revised to 672 crores, then Rs. 760 crores and finally it has reached an astronomical figure of over Rs. 1000 crores. The schedule for the completion of the first stage was March, 1970 and now it is estimated that this would not be completed before March, 1973, i.e. the project would be three years behind schedule."

"Mines and Allied Machinery Corporation, as has been brought out by the Public Undertakings Com-

mittee, has suffered an aggregate loss of Rs. 20 crores and a loss of Rs. 7 crores on an average annually. Against its targeted capacity of 45,000 tonnes the production has reached 6000 tonnes, i.e. 11 per cent of its capacity while the staff employed in the Corporation is what is needed for its 100 per cent targetted capacity. Even if there is a satisfactory continuous progress and efficient management of the project it would not reach more than 50 per cent of its targetted capacity during the next five years. The original target of M.A.M.C. was 30,000 tonnes. On Russia's insistence it was raised to 45,000 tonnes in 1959 which later on, when the actual demand survey was conducted by the Government of India some time in 1968, it was found that the expected demand for the mining machinery was not more than 2,850 tonnes, while at present it does not supply mining machinery of more than 1250 tonnes."

"Then the big scandal about the working of the I.D.P.L. was recently brought out by the Swatantra Party members in the Rajya Sabha when the Minister had to admit that against an annual sale of Rs. 1 crore the project incurred a loss of Rs. 7 crores. Our information was that the project suffered a loss of Rs. 9 crores. The plant at Rishikesh is age-old and out-dated and has not reached even the

break-even point. The plant at Hyderabad is also obsolete, machinery is out-dated, the drugs manufactured have gone out of use for several years past. How on earth under the circumstances they can find market for their produce? The Surgical Instruments, a unit of I.D.P.L. at Madras, is manufacturing instruments which are no more in demand. They are not needed even for our own requirements.

"As for the Heavy Engineering Corporation the story is dismal and not in any way better. It has been incurring heavy losses. It has not even reached 20 per cent of the targetted capacity. It is not delivering machinery inspite of accepting orders and that has led to a tussel between the HEC and the Bokaro Steel Project and a number of other public sector Undertakings.

"From this we hope there will not be two opinions that there is definitely something inher-

ently wrong in the public sector projects especially those run with the Russian help. They need immediate attention at the hands of the Government. We would be grateful to have your reactions in this regard."

Earlier, 11 Swatantra M.P.s had written a letter to the Prime Minister on April 24, 1970 protesting against 'the abnormal emoluments paid to the Russian technicians in Soviet-aided projects', and demanded an investigation into the functioning of these units.

In a joint letter to the Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi they said that some 948 Russian technicians were employed in thirteen projects and their "aggregate emoluments amount to Rs. 12.5 crores, the per capita monthly salary working out to Rs. 35,000, i.e. three and a half times higher than that of even the President of India."

Privy Purses

The President of the Swatantra Party, Mr. M. R. Masani, and the BKD Secretary, Mr. Prakash Vir Shastri, addressed a communication to the President, Mr. V. V. Giri on 13th April 1970 urging that the proposed Constitution (Amendment) Bill to do away with Privy Purses and the Special Privileges of former rulers should not be introduced in Parliament before securing the opinion of the Supreme Court.

Mr. Masani has pointed out that some eminent jurists had given an opinion that such an amendment would raise issues in regard to its validity. They had, therefore, suggested that a question of such a nature and importance called for the advisory opinion of the Supreme Court being obtained before any legislation was initiated. "We understand that the Maharaja of Dhrangadhra and the Maharaja of Baroda have already requested that you may be pleased to take such action."

"There have already been recent instances of a confrontation between Parliament and the supreme judiciary and we believe that you will agree that, as

far as possible, it will be desirable to avoid controversial legislation which may result in further confrontations of this nature." In such a situation the question of an amendment of the Constitution to alter the provisions about the former rulers should not be undertaken until the advisory opinion of the Supreme Court had been obtained.

"It was for that purpose that provision had been made in Article 143 in the Constitution for the President to consult the Supreme Court and invite its opinion. It would also be fair that the terms of reference to the Supreme Court should be worked out in consultation with the parties to the dispute.

"Since this matter involves national commitments and pledges, we are sure you will agree that nothing should be done which may in any way bring dishonour or discredit to the country and its pledged word. This consideration, in our view, makes it all the more desirable that the procedure we have suggested should be followed."

FOCUS ON ORISSA

State Convention

The Third Annual Convention of the Swatantra Party, Orissa, was held at Rourkela on 3rd and 4th May, 1970. The Chairman of the Reception Committee, Mr. Debanand Amat, M.P., in his welcome address to the delegates said that Orissa occupied an unique position in India, having the highest concentration of Tribal population. Out of 22% of the backward population of India, Orissa has 14-15% with as many as 62 Tribal Communities.

Mr. Debanand Amat said that since Independence nothing worth mentioning had been done for the

upliftment of the backward masses, with the result the weaker sections of the society had not made any progress economically, socially or educationally. However, a relieving feature was that after the 1967 Elections a Swatantra Government had been installed in Orissa. It was trying to give special attention for the neglected people under the able leadership of the Orissa Chief Minister, Mr. R. N. Singh Deo.

Resolutions

In all, 22 resolutions were passed at the Convention. The political resolution after surveying the current