

Swatantra Party

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Mr. M. R. Masani.

Delegations of M.Ps to visit Foreign Countries.

1. You must have seen the letter dated 15th November 1965 addressed to the Central Office of the Party by some of our M.Ps protesting against the decision of the Central Parliamentary Board (CPB) enjoining our M.Ps to decline to join Delegations of M.Ps to visit Foreign Countries.
2. As I understand the matter, the decision was concerned with only those delegations which are now being sent out with the specific purpose of explaining to the world at large the background of the recent Indo-Pakistan hostilities generally and our stand on the Kashmir question in particular. The decision was not concerned with any other type of delegations.
3. In directing our M.Ps not to join such delegation, the CPB was persuaded by the following considerations:-
 - (a) The explaining of India's foreign policy generally as well as on particular occasions was clearly the function of the Indian Foreign Service.
 - (b) If any one of them does not do this properly, he must be removed. But "properly" does not necessarily mean "successfully". One can try; but one may not succeed. If success (in the way we understand it) is to be the criterion for judging our Ambassadors and High Commissioners abroad, then, by the same reasoning, the "failure" of U.K. High Commissioner and the U.S. Ambassador in India to explain "successfully" to us their governments' policies regarding Pakistan and Kashmir should involve their dismissal. On that footing, no Government (except U.S.S.R.) could keep its envoy in this country for long.
 - (c) For M.Ps to intervene in this diplomatic function abroad might easily lead to confusion as, with the best will in the world, they could not have all the information ~~and~~ required to meet the well organised, and even false propaganda put out by Pakistan.
 - (d) Such delegations would have the undoubted effect of undermining the position of our Ambassadors and High Commissioners with the countries to which they are accredited, by lowering their local status, standing and competence to perform their jobs.

- (e) Furthermore, on the specific question of Kashmir, our Party's stand is materially different from that of all other parties. But when one joins a delegation of M.Ps one must necessarily tow the line set by the *Congress* Leader of the delegation who may not even consult all members of the delegation.
 - (f) In these circumstances, there was really no justification for such delegations or for our M.Ps to join them. They merely resulted in the loss of very valuable foreign exchange.
4. I think it would be well to explain the raison d'etre C.P.B's decision on the above lines.

N. Daneker

(N. DANDEKER)