

(1873)

Draft

General Secretary's Letter To MP.s/MLA.s No :

Dear Friend :

The Central Parliamentary Board and the National Executive of the Party met in New Delhi on October 31 and November 1 and 2 respectively.

I communicate herewith certain decisions of the two meetings which need your attention.

Central Parliamentary Board

I am happy to inform you that while reviewing the work of the Party's group in both Houses of Parliament during the last session, the Parliamentary Board expressed its satisfaction at the good work done by the Party members in Parliament.

JOINT ACTION WITH OTHER PARTIES OR GROUPS.

The Parliamentary Board endorsed the advice given by the leader of the Party in Parliament that he should be consulted before members commit themselves on issues like the support for the manufacture of nuclear weapons etc., and which has been recorded in the Minutes of the meeting of the Parliamentary Group held on September 24, 1965.

The Parliamentary Board wishes to advise members of the Party in Parliament and the State Legislatures not to join in signing any manifestos or appeals got up by members or other Parties or groups regarding any public issue without obtaining the permission of the leader or deputy leader or whoever else is in charge at the time, nor to join any conference, meeting or delegation without obtaining similar permission.

WITHDRAWAL FROM COMMONWEALTH

The Parliamentary Board asks the Party's members in Parliament to speak and vote against the non-official bill before the Lok Sabha seeking India's withdrawal from the Commonwealth.

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OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL + UNLAWFUL ASSOCIATIONS BILL.

The Board advises our members in Parliament to be vigilant and to scrutinise the provisions of the Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill and the Unlawful Associations Bill that is likely to come up before Parliament, from the point of view of civil liberties and the fundamental rights of the citizen. All provisions which encroach on civil liberties and the fundamental rights of the citizen should be stoutly resisted.

ORISSA ELECTIONS:

While considering the possibility of legislations being introduced in Parliament seeking the postponement of Assembly Elections in Orissa next year, the Central Parliamentary Board reaffirmed that the Party's group in both Houses should strenuously oppose any such move.

KERALA PRESIDENT'S RULE:

A decision which is now of academic interest only was on asking members of the Party in Parliament to oppose the move to extend President's Rule in Kerala for a further period of six months.

The National Executive

MANUFACTURE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS:

The National Executive approved of the stand taken by the spokesmen of the Party in both Houses of Parliament opposing the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL

A decision of the Executive which is now only of academic interest since the measure has been withdrawn was one calling on the Party's members in Parliament to oppose a Private Member's Bill seeking amendment of the Constitution truncating State's Rights and the federal structure.

RESOLUTIONS:

The following resolutions were adopted by the National Executive the texts of which are attached : I would strongly urge our Members in Parliament and State Legislatures to read them carefully since they serve as guidance as and when such issues are discussed :

- a. The Economic Situation
- b. Foreign Policy in the context of the recent conflict with Pakistan
- c. Review of Detention Cases, ~~d. The Exploitation of the~~

d. The Exploitation of the Present Crisis

Yours sincerely,

(M. R. Masani)
General Secretary

MRM to correct and
return to C.O. for
duplication and despatch.

Ray

Let
Paul Smith
for