

New Delhi.
October 8, 1969.

We were shocked to read Mr. Dinesh Singh's statement made by him in London saying that India was still a member of the Islamic Conference and would attend the forthcoming Foreign Ministers meeting in this regard. It seems he has not shown even an elementary courtesy to give the nation full facts regarding various circumstances leading to the humiliation at the Islamic Conference at Rabat.

We would like to know specifically from the External Affairs Minister as to how and in what circumstances India, in spite of the wishes of the organisers, went all out to attend the conference. We are still in dark as to at what level decision in this regard was taken and who are all responsible for our uncerecermonious ejection from the Conference. Also whether this decision was in line with the thinking of the late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and his successors in the External Affairs Ministry.

Instead of giving facts, Mr. Dinesh Singh has chosen to make a misleading presentation of the facts and thus invited countrywide criticism. It proves that our Hon. Foreign Minister is completely out of touch with the public opinion in this country.

We demand that the Foreign Minister henceforth should desist from making such statements which are an affront to the Indian public opinion. He has not so far commented on the communique issued at the end of the conference where "Muslim community in India" was supposed to have been represented.

There are obviously serious differences of opinion between the Foreign Minister and the Industries Minister as Industries Minister Shri Fakruddin Ali Ahmed who faced humiliation at Rabat at first hand said at Palam on his return that the country's foreign policy towards West Asian countries needed reassessment; while Mr. Dinesh Singh says that no such reappraisal is called for.

In regard to these developments patently noteworthy is the promotion of Mr. Larki as Prime Minister of Morocco. Mr. Larki was responsible for snubbing India at Rabat. He called our ambassador, Mr. Gurbachan Singh, as persona non-grata. Is it for such services that he has been promoted?

It is also not clear as to why we have taken a hostile attitude towards Malaysia which has always been our steadfast friend at moments when we have faced international crises and therefore there is no scope according to us whatsoever to question Mr. Tunku Abd l Rehman's statement made by him in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. We should draw the necessary lessons from it.

We also demand that the Arab League in New Delhi should not only tender a public apology for their behaviour during this episode but should also be asked to close down their office in New Delhi immediately.

Dahyabhai V. Patel, M.P.
M.L. Sondhi, M.P.
Kanwar Lal Gupta
S.S. Mariswamy, M.P.
S.M. Tapuriah, M.P.
V.N. Rao, M.P.
Loknath Misra, M.P.
Raj Raj Singh Deo, M.P.

8.10.1969.

(A.P. Jain)