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ATANTRA WILL COME—NIJALINGAPPA Joint programme for front

By A Staff Reporter

OLD Congress President S. Nijalingappa declared in Bombay on Tuesday that it would be possible for the three-party "national front" launched two days ago to forge a "common programme," after the elections.

Addressing a crowded press conference, he said: "We want to have it (the common programme), we expect to have it."

The only basis of the "national front" partners—the Old Congress, the SSP and the Jan Sangh—has so far been their obsession to defeat the New Congress and oust Mrs. Indira Gandhi from power.

Despite the Bharatiya Kranti Dal and the Swatantra Party's declaration not to have any truck with the "national front", Mr. Nijalingappa hoped that they and some Praja Socialists would co-operate with the triple alliance.

Mr. Nijalingappa was certain that the Swatantra Party would ultimately be brought into the alliance. Mr. S. K. Patil, who was present, said Mr. Nijalingappa's optimism was justified, and added that the Swatantra would "certainly take a positive decision."

The Congress President asserted that his side would have "greater strength very soon," with the joining of "all those who believe in democracy."

Sena's inclusion

Asked about their electoral partner SSP's desire to forge adjustments with the Marxists in some areas, Mr. Nijalingappa firmly stated: "We have nothing to do with the Marxists, the CPI or anybody who has anything to do with Communism." He, however, said he would seek clarification from the SSP on this point.

When told about strong rumours that Mrs. Gandhi wanted SSP leader S. M. Joshi to contest again from Poona and was also willing to leave that constituency free, Mr. Nijalingappa refused to talk about individuals. He merely said: "Mr. Joshi is an old worker of the SSP. I don't know how he can place himself in such a position."

Asked whether the Shiv Sena be brought into the "national front," Mr. Nijalingappa said: "That will depend on my PCC's report. So far as the defeat of Communism is concerned, the Sena will be with us I am sure."

In reply to a question about the basis or principles of the distribution of seats among the front parties to nationalise the front, he said: "According to him, the decisions were taken by the undivided Congress."

"She is extra clever. It is this extra cleverness that is responsible for all the diseases developed during the last one and a half year."

Alliance talks

By A Staff Reporter

The triple alliance partners and the Swatantra Party held talks in Bombay on Tuesday on electoral adjustments.

The outcome of the talks was not divulged.

Old Congress president S. Nijalingappa, Mr. Morarji Desai and Mr. S. K. Patil closeted themselves after Swatantra leader Minoo Masani had discussed the election strategy with Mr. Desai.

The talks will continue on Wednesday.