

3455

The Hindu. 6/1/71

Nijalingappa's Appeal to Swatantra Party

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

BOMBAY, Jan. 5.

The Organisation Congress President, Mr. S. Nijalingappa, expressed the hope here to-day that the recently formed "front" would have the co-operation of the Swatantra Party, the Bharatiya Kranti Dal and possibly the Praja Socialist Party.

Mr. Nijalingappa who was addressing a press conference said that the "front" had nothing to do with the C.P.I. or the C.P.M.

Mr. S. K. Patil, who was present at the conference, intervened and said that talks were going on with the Swatantra Party leaders, particularly with Mr. C. Rajagopalachari to see that they joined the "front." The "front" would have no meaning without the Swatantra Party, he added.

Asked whether he would meet Mr. M. R. Masani, Chairman of the Swatantra Party, for talks, Mr. Nijalingappa said that Mr. Morarji Desai had already met Mr. Masani

to-day and it was as good as his (Mr. Nijalingappa) meeting Mr. Masani.

The "front" will meet on January 15 and 16 at New Delhi to chalk out a common programme. The Parliamentary Board of the Congress (O) will meet in New Delhi on January 11 and 12 for the final screening of candidates for the Lok Sabha election.

Mr. Nijalingappa said the "front" would contest all the Lok Sabha seats and he expressed his confidence of total success.

FRONT TO BACK PRINCES IN POLL

Asked whether the "front" would support the princes in the forthcoming election, Mr. Patil said it would certainly support them.

In reply to a question whether the Congress (O) would enter into an electoral adjustment with the Shiv Sena in Greater Bombay, Mr. Nijalingappa said that he had not yet received the report from the

Bombay Pradesh Congress Committee (O) in this regard.

Mr. Patil, however, replied that the Shiv Sena had expressed its determination to fight the communists and as such that party would have to seek the support of the Congress (O).

Asked whether Mr. S. K. Patil would stand from the South Bombay Parliamentary constituency, Mr. Nijalingappa said that the forthcoming meeting of the "front" would decide the candidates for various Parliamentary constituencies. He, however, made it clear that the services rendered by Mr. Patil to the South Bombay Parliamentary constituency and to the country would not be forgotten in the final selection.

Asked to comment on Mr. Nijalingappa's hope that the Swatantra Party would join the "front", Mr. Masani, Swatantra party chief, declined to make any statement, but added that Party Executive and the Parliamentary Board meeting at Madras on January 8 and 9 would discuss everything, including what happened at New Delhi, on January 3 when he withdrew from the alliance talks with Congress (O) and Jan Sangh leaders.

(Editorial on Page 8)