

National Herald. 4/1/71

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Masani attacks Cong (O) leaders

By Our Special Correspondent
NEW DELHI, Jan. 3—The chairman of the Swatantra Party, Mr. M. R. Masani, who today withdrew from the talks for the formation of a grand alliance in a huff, accused the Congress (O) of shifting its stand suddenly at the instance of the SSP.

Mr. Masani declined to give any categorical reply to persistent questions whether his party was likely to accept the new proposal.

STATEMENT

The following is the text of Mr Masani's statement.

"For a long time now the Swatantra Party's stand has been well-known that a democratic alternative to the present Government is what the country urgently needs. It is our view that nothing less than a full-fledged electoral alliance with a concrete programme and one agreed candidate in each constituency throughout the country supported by all the parties to the pact could provide such an alternative.

"We thought that this was well understood and, therefore, after protracted discussions it was arranged and announced yesterday that the presidents of the Congress (O) and the Jan Sangh and myself would meet the press this evening, and announce the esta-

blishment of a democratic front in a statement the terms of which were agreed upon by all three of us. Unfortunately, it would appear that some last-minute rethinking has once again led to vacillation and indecision on the part of the Congress (O). What

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Weather report

OBSERVATIONS RECORDED
AT 8.30 A.M. ON SUNDAY

	Maximum	Minimum	Rain	Past 24 hours	Since Jan. 1	Departure	From Normal
Ahmedabad	30	17	0	0	0	0	0
Allahabad	23	4	0	0	0	M	1
Ambala	22	2	0	0	0	M	4
Bangalore	25	13	0	0	0	M	1
Baroda	33	11	0	0	0	0	0
Bhopal	25	7	0	0	0	M	1
Bhub	28	10	0	0	0	0	0

Congress of Orientalists to be held in Canberra from January 6 to 12.

Prof. S. Nurul Hasan, MP, is the leader of the delegation. The other members are: Dr. V. Raghavan, Dr. B. B. Lal, Dr. A. K. Narain, Dr. C. Sivaramamurti, Dr. Lokesh Chandra, Acharya Bhagwan Dev, Mr. Biswanarayan Shastri, Dr. A. N. Upadhye, Mrs. Gargi Dutt, Dr. B. S. Kesavan, Hakim Abdul Hamid, Dr. V. V. Gokhale and Dr. Gangadhar Gadgil. Dr. Mrs. Kapila Vatsayan, deputy educational adviser, Ministry of Education and Youth Services, is member-secretary.

Dr. Kesavan will preside over the session on cooperative bibliographical projects. The delegation will leave New Delhi tomorrow. —UNI.

Counsellor at Indian Embassy in Belgrade

NEW DELHI, Jan. 3.—Mr. Chinmal Garekhan, Director of the UN Division in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as Counsellor at the Indian Embassy in Belgrade.

He is expected to join his post within a fortnight. —PTI.

Legislature prorogued

MADRAS, Jan. 3.—The Tamil Nadu Governor yesterday prorogued the state legislature.

The Legislative Assembly commenced its session on November 25 and the Council on November

Masani attacks

Cong (O) leaders

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is now proposed at the instance of the SSP is an attempt at mere electoral adjustments with a democratic front and without a common programme.

"I have no authority from my party to agree to this proposal or to anything short of a principled electoral pact of the kind that was intended to be announced.

"I shall therefore, place the new proposal before the national executive of the party when it meets in Madras on January 13. It will be for that body to define the party's attitude to this development."

DISAPPOINTING

Mr. Masani did not think Mr. Morarji Desai was responsible for the "vacillating and indecisive" attitude of the Congress (O).

Soon after Mr. Masani left Mr. Nijalingappa's residence a newsmen asked: Did he think Mr. Morarji Desai's telephonic talk with responsible for tonight's developments?

"No, no. It is the SSP, which has been after Mr. Nijalingappa the whole afternoon. We (Swatantra, Jan Sangh, Congress (O)) agreed to the text of a statement last night. It is in my file".

Mr. Masani described the prolonged talks as "disappointing, dejecting".

Mr. Madhu Limaye, SSP leader, expressed the hope that Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, "who has a flexible approach", would approve of the formation of the front and the Swatantra Party would also join it.

PTI adds: Commenting on the joint statement of the Congress (O), the Jan Sangh and the SSP, Mr. Masani said: "This is a new proposal. There is no common programme and it is not what was intended".

He said he would communicate the decision of his party, if necessary, after the meeting of its national executive at January 13.

Jaipur hut to be gi

From Our Staff Correspondent

JAIPUR, Jan. 3—About one third of the hut dwellers in Jaipur capital of the state, will be provided plots measuring 12 sq. yards to 150 sq. yards each within the next two years under

Socialist slogans criticized

From Our Staff Correspondent

JAIPUR, Jan. 3—The R.S.S. chief, Mr. M. S. Golwalkar, said here today that those who talked of socialism and secularism were taking the country back.

Addressing a R.S.S. rally here, he said that the slogan of providing bread and shelter and job to every one was a "derogative step".

He said, he was sorry to know that the youngmen of today were not aware of the "enemies" on the northern, eastern and western border."

Mr. Golwalkar is here as a part of his pre-election tour of the country.

Course for block officers

NEW DELHI, Jan. 3—The Indian Institute of Mass Communication is starting the third course in communication for rural development for block development officers on Monday. This year's course is being attended by 25 block development officers from Assam, Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, Mysore, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. The course will last eleven days. It will consist of lectures by specialists and experts in rural communication and practicals, workshops and field visits to centres of communication activity.