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SWATANTRA PARTY

Central Parliamentary Board

The following decisions were taken by the Central Parliamentary Board at its meeting held in New Delhi on 31st October 1965:

1) The Board's attention was drawn to the fact that certain members of the Party in Parliament had signed an appeal supporting the manufacture of an indigenous Atom Bomb. The Board endorsed the advice given by the Leader of the Party in Parliament that he should be consulted before members commit themselves on such issues which was recorded in the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parliamentary Group held on September 24, 1965.

2x After discussing the matter further, the Parliamentary Board advised Members of the Party in Parliament and the State Legislatures not to join in signing any manifestoes or appeals got up by members of other Parties or Groups regarding any public issues 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 first obtaining similar permission.

2) The General Secretary then reported on the invitation extended to him by Government to join a Goodwill Mission of M.Ps to visit North Africa. While expressing ~~in~~ his own desire, viz. that he would like to be excused, the General Secretary sought the guidance of the Board on the matter.

The Board agreed with the General Secretary's disinclination to accept the invitation and advised him to mention the following reasons while declining the invitation:

- a) Not much purpose would be served by such delegations by way of explaining the country's position, which was the job of the Publicity Wing in the External Affairs Ministry and of our Missions abroad.
 - b) Such delegations sometime interfered with the work of our diplomatic missions abroad and placed the heads of our Missions abroad in a difficult position,
 - c) It involved a needless drain on an already critical foreign position which faced the country.
- 3) The Board then took up for consideration business coming up before the Winter Session of Parliament. The Board asked the Party's members in Parliament to speak and vote against a non-official bill before the Lok Sabha seeking India's withdrawal from the Commonwealth.

The Board advised the Party's Members to be vigilant and to scrutinise the provisions of the Official Secrets Amendment Bill and Unlawful Associations Bill that were likely to come up before Parliament from the point of civil liberties and the fundamental rights of the citizens.

Considering the possibility of legislation being introduced seeking the postponement of Assembly elections in Orissa scheduled next year, the Board reaffirmed that the Party's Group in both Houses should strenuously oppose any such move.

In regard to the possibility of a resolution coming up before Parliament for extending President's Rule in Kerala for a further period of six months, the Board advised the Party's Group in Parliament to oppose the move.