

Text Of Resolutions Adopted
by the General Council on
November 15, and 16, 1969.

Mid-Term Report

Having adopted the Mid-Term Report, the General Council leaves it to the new National Executive to spell out in greater detail a programme of action for Party workers based on the general recommendations made in the Report.

Misuse of Preventive Detention Act :

The Council deplores the gross abuse of the Preventive Detention Act by the Government of Gujarat in arresting and detaining members of the Legislative Assembly and certain prominent citizens of Borsad, a Taluka headquarter town in Kaira district, long after the atmosphere of communal unrest had disappeared and in particular when no communal violence had taken place in the town during or after the period of communal disturbances in Ahmedabad and surrounding areas.

The General Council earnestly urges the Gujarat Government to reconsider the action taken by it against the Editor of Jai Hind, a prominent Gujarati daily published simultaneously from Ahmedabad and Rajkot, as the circumstances in which the action has been taken has every appearance of an attempt to throttle the freedom of the Press.

Communal Disturbances in Ahmedabad :

The General Council notes with profound sorrow and distress the communal disturbances in Ahmedabad and surrounding areas which resulted in heavy loss of life and property. The Council expresses its deep concern at the breakdown of law and order and the growing tendency to violence in many parts of the country. It considers this to be due as much to administrative incompetence as to the failure to recognise the vital importance of maintenance of law and order.

The Council welcomes the appointment of a Commission under the Chairmanship of a judge of the Supreme Court to inquire into the communal riots in Gujarat and trusts that the Commission will complete its work speedily and its recommendations will help in the evolution and adoption of a sounder and more effective approach to the problem of prevention of violence and maintenance of law and order.

Violence in West Bengal

Bearing in mind what has taken place and is taking place in Kerala and West Bengal, the General Council reiterates the repeated demands it has been making for banning forthwith the Communist Parties of all varieties.

The General Council in particular draws attention to the complete breakdown of law and order in West Bengal where on the admission of the Chief Minister of the State himself, the life and property of the ordinary citizen is no longer safe. This is a state of affairs which ought not to be tolerated for a day longer. The General Council therefore demands the immediate dismissal from office of the West Bengal Government and the declaration of a state of emergency leading to President's rule in the State till such time as full normalcy is restored and the people regain their faith in the capacity of law enforcement agencies to maintain law and peace.

Sardar Darshan Singh Pheruman's Ashes

This meeting of the General Council strongly disapproves the Punjab Government's failure to allow the family of the late Sardar Darshan Singh Pheruman to dispose of his ashes. The Council calls upon the Punjab Government to allow Sardar Pheruman's relatives to dispose of the ashes in the customary manner which is their inalienable right.

Natural Calamities :

This meeting of the General Council of the Swatantra Party expresses its distress with the totally inadequate attention being paid by the State Government of Rajasthan to the famine situation prevailing in the border areas, particularly in Jaisalmer and Jalore. The famine has become so acute that the population and cattle have been compelled to migrate and those who remain are obliged to live on bread made from cactus and roots.

The only relief offered to the famine stricken people is work on the Rajasthan canal which is so far away from their homes that they are not in a position to go there abandoning their families and cattle. It is tragic that the famine relief department of the Rajasthan Government appears to have neglected this area on purely political considerations. The Council demands that the Central Government should institute an impartial enquiry into the administration of famine relief in Rajasthan.

Natural calamities have also brought considerable suffering to people elsewhere in the country. Andhra has for the third time within 12 months, been hit by cyclone and over 170 fishermen are reported to have died in the latest fit of nature's fury. It may be recalled that only in May this year 200 persons were swept away by cyclone. Gujarat too has had more than its share of natural calamities this year and so also Orissa. The Council expresses its

sympathy with the people of these States and calls upon the Centre and the State Governments to organise and provide adequate relief. The General Council of the Swatantra Party is strongly of the opinion that the distribution of famine relief should be placed in the hands of non-political, socially motivated organisations such as the Ramakrishna Mission in order to avoid partisan distribution and corruption in the distribution of famine relief.

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NOV 12th 1969.

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