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For J. S. J. S.

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the National Executive held at the National Headquarters of the Party, 143, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bombay 1, on November 12, 1969.

Present:

Prof. N. G. Ranga -- In the Chair
Mr. Dabhyabhai V. Patel
Mr. H.M. Patel
Mr. Sundermani Patel
Mr. G. Hanumantha Rao
Mr. S.S. Mariswamy
Mr. K. Sundaram
Mr. J. Mohammad Imam
Dr. R.C. Cooper

Permanent Invitee

Thakur Mandhatta Singh

Present by Special Invitation

Mr. M.R. Masani
Mr. Harihar Patel
Mr. T. Sadasivam
Mr. Lalchand Hirachand

1. The meeting mourned the death of Sardar Darshan Singh Pheruman, the former President of the Punjab Unit of the Party and a member of the General Council at the time of his death, and stood in silence in honour of his memory.
2. The Minutes of the National Executive meeting held in New Delhi on August 30, 1969, were confirmed.
3. The meeting was informed that the following had intimated their inability to attend --

Mr. R. N. Singh Deo
Prof. M. Ruthnaswamy
Mr. J.M. Lobo Prabhu
Maharawal Laxman Singh of Dungarpur
Mr. G. Iatchanna
Mrs. Kailash Rekhi
Mr. K.K. Kuruvilla
Sardar Basant Singh

4. Action Arising Out Of Minutes

On the suggestion of the Acting General Secretary, it was decided that in view of the need to finalise the Mid-Term Report, the following action that arose out of the Minutes of the Meeting held in New Delhi on August 30, be held over for the next meeting of the National Executive, viz.,

- (i) Report of the Linguistic States Sub-Committee
- (ii) Functions of the Central Parliamentary Board

5. Mid-Term Report

The Executive then took up for consideration the Mid-Term Report as submitted by the Mid-Term Report Sub-Committee. After considerable discussion, the Executive finalised the Draft (in the form attached) for placing before the

General Council which was meeting in New Delhi on November 15 and 16.

6. Current Political Situation

(i) No-Confidence Motion in Parliament

The Executive discussed the attitude to be taken by the Party's Group in the forthcoming session of Parliament, commencing November 17, in regard to censure motion against the Government. In this connection, Rajaji's view that the Party's Group in Parliament should concentrate on the Rabat fiasco as the single act for which the Government's dismissal must be demanded, was conveyed to the Executive.

After considerable discussion, the National Executive decided to direct the Party's Group in Parliament to table or support a motion of no-confidence in the Government on the opening day of the session of Parliament on the issue of the Rabat Conference, the Executive being firmly of the view that the entire Government as a whole was responsible for India's humiliation at Rabat.

Prof. Ranga sought the guidance of the Executive in regard to what ought to be done in case any member/s of the Party's Parliamentary Group defied the Executive's decision despite his persuasion and did not support the motion though they were present in the House or spoke or voted against the motion. The Executive decided that in such an eventuality, the President was authorised to take such action as may be necessary to maintain the Party's discipline. However, the Executive was confident that all the Party's MPs would faithfully abide by the Party's decision in this regard.

(ii) Situation in Gujarat

In this context, the Executive's attention was drawn to certain statements reported to have been made by Mr. C.C. Desai and some others and the rejoinder by the President of the Gujarat State Unit, Mr. H.M. Patel. The Executive noted the statements of Mr. C.C. Desai and some others offering to join hands with certain Congress members of the Gujarat Assembly to bring down the Gujarat Government. It regretted that Mr. C.C. Desai should have stated that MLAs of the Swatantra Party in Gujarat were bound to take the line indicated by him although neither the State Unit of the Party or the Legislature Party had considered and decided upon the line of action to be followed in the present political crisis in the State. The Executive, while approving the correction and rejoinder by the State President, Mr. H.M. Patel, decided that the Gujarat Unit of the Party and the Legislature Party should not take any action without prior consultation and approval of the Central Parliamentary Board and/or the National Executive.

(iii) Situation in U.P.

In regard to the guidance to be given to the Party's MLAs in the U.P. Assembly in the event of fresh efforts that may be made to topple the Ministry in that State, the Executive reiterated the decision taken by the Central Parliamentary Board at its meeting on August 29, viz., that our MLAs should not participate in attempts to topple State Governments. This implied that our Group should not become a part of any SVD in Opposition.

In case the present Government was toppled, despite the neutrality of our MLAs, the Board decided that they could support an SVD Government provided that such Governments did not include Communists. In regard to joining any Governments formed by the SVD, this

matter could be considered

- (a) only if our MLAs were invited to join, and
- (b) provided such a Government did not include Communists.

In this case or in any unforeseen situation not contemplated above, the Group should consult the General Secretary at the National Headquarters.

7. Party Elections

(i) National Election Tribunal

The National Executive nominated the following to constitute the National Election Tribunal under Clause 10A of the Party's Constitution:

1. Mr. K.M. Kouchi
2. Mr. Y.G. Gowd
3. H.H. Maharaja Jaideepsinh of Baria
4. Mr. C. Narayanaswamy
5. Mr. Harihar Patel

In case any of the above gentlemen were unable to respond, the following names were suggested as reserve to meet such a contingency :

1. Shri Meghrajji of Bhurangadhra
2. Mr. Rajballabh Mishra

The quorum for meetings of the Tribunal will be three and this would be competent to function as the Tribunal.

(ii) Ratio of Representation - Slight Amendment

At the last meeting of the National Executive, the following ratio of representation of State Units on the General Council had been decided upon viz.,

3 for the first 400 Workers/Life Workers/Life Members, and
1 for every additional 150, subject to a maximum of 20 and
a minimum of 3,

as laid down in Clause 9(b) of the Party's Constitution.

The Acting General Secretary recommended that this ratio be slightly amended as follows:

3 for the first 400 Workers/Life Workers/Life Members,
and 1 representative for every additional 150 (the
last fraction of 10 being deemed to be 150) subject to
a maximum of 20 and a minimum of 3.

The Executive approved of the recommendation.

(iii) General Council Ratio - Gujarat Unit's Comments

The Gujarat Unit's comments that the ratio of representation of State Units on the General Council was rather low was considered and it was decided to keep this in mind on the occasion of the next Party Elections.

(iv) The Date and Venue of the first meeting of the newly Elected General Council.

The Executive gratefully accepted the invitation extended by the Tamilnad Unit of the Party to hold the first meeting of the newly elected General Council in Madras. It was decided that the meeting should be held on Saturday and Sunday, December 27 and 28.

(v) Programme of General Council Meeting

The following programme of meetings of the General Council in Madras on December 27 and 28, was approved by the Executive :

<u>Saturday, 27th December</u>	-	2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	-- last meeting of the outgoing National Executive
		3 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	-- General Council
<u>Sunday, 28th December</u>	-	10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	-- " "
		2:30 p.m.	First meeting of the newly elected National Executive.

(vi) Returning Officer

It was decided to request either Sriraj Meghrajji of Ihrangadhra, MP, or, failing him, Mr. K.M. Koushik, MP, to be good enough to act as the Returning Officer at the first election of the National Executive and office bearers.

8. Disputes Regarding Enrolment

The Acting General Secretary reported that in the context of certain disputes regarding admission of certain enrolment forms particularly in Rajasthan and in the Cuttack district of Orissa, it may be necessary (for the expeditious disposal of any appeals which might arise in this regard) to appoint a sub-committee to decide on the matter. The Executive appointed Mr. H.M. Patel to be the one-man Sub-Committee to decide on these matters on behalf of the Executive.

9. (i) Disciplinary Action against Mr. M.A. Rizvi

The Bombay Regional Unit had recommended the expulsion of Mr. M.A. Rizvi for indiscipline and misuse of his office as Joint Secretary in connection with the fire at the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

The Executive noted in this connection that the recommendation for expulsion had been passed by the Bombay Regional Council by a majority of one. It decided after careful consideration that in the absence of a unanimous recommendation, Mr. Rizvi should not be expelled but should be debarred from holding any office or membership of any Committee in the Party for a period of one year with immediate effect.

(ii) National Conference on Population Policy and Programme

The invitation from the National Conference on Population Policy and Programme calling upon the Party to send three delegates to its conference to be held in New Delhi from December 19 - 23 was accepted and the President, Prof. Ranga, was authorised to nominate suitable delegates to represent the Party.

Secretary, in consultation with the President, to turn down the invitation to attend the All-Party Conference against Communal violence, viz., that since the Party had earlier declined to participate in the National Integration Council, it could not logically participate in the Conference which arose out of the Resolution of that Council, and ratified the General Secretary's action.

10. Cement Decontrol

The National Executive's attention was drawn to a Joint Memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister by a number of MPs including some Swatantra MPs in the matter of decontrol of cement distribution and prices, but the need for continuation of the freight pool arrangements.

The National Executive was sorry to note that in spite of an earlier decision, some Swatantra MPs had joined the Memorandum which was also signed by several communist members.

In the context of the accepted policy of the Swatantra Party, the National Executive expressed itself against any governmental regulations whether in the matter of prices or distribution control over cement or compulsory freight pool arrangements.

However, in consonance with the desire of the Party to promote the social responsibility of business, it was decided that Mr. M.R. Masani, Mr. Dandekar and Dr. R.C. Cooper should use their good offices to get together the interests concerned to explore the possibility of evolving a voluntary arrangement among the producers of cement which was not against the interests of the consumer.

The meeting then terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.