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This All-India Civil Liberties Conference:

distressed at the eclipse of civil liberties and replacement of the rule of law by the exercise of arbitrary power, which has led to the detention without trial and ill-treatment in jail of thousands of innocent persons throughout the country,

alarmed at the ruthless suppression of freedom of expression and the systematic attempt to regiment public opinion in the country by the propagation of one-sided news and views through radio, television and a wholly controlled press,

and desirous of immediate restoration of civil liberties and democratic processes,

authorises the Citizens For Democracy to prepare and present to the Lok Sabha a petition, signed by citizens throughout the country, demanding

- (1) that since conditions in all parts of India are admittedly normal at present, the Proclamations of emergency should be revoked and all abnormal laws which affect civil liberties should be immediately withdrawn,
- (2) that, as required by article 83 of the Constitution, a general election to the Lok Sabha should be held before the first week of March 1976 and the same ought not to be postponed; and
- (3) that, in order to secure that the election may be free and fair, all the political detainees should be released and freedom of the press

Contd....2/-

and democratic processes should be restored

This Conference resolves that a petition on these lines should be printed in all the regional languages and that people in villages and towns throughout the country should be approached for having copies of the petition signed and forwarded to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
