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INDIAN SOCIALIST PLOT TO FORM SECRET BODY

Revelation In Papers Seized from Jayaprakash Narain

Plans to consolidate the position of the Congress Socialist Party by winning over important members of the terrorist organisations known as the Revolutionary Socialist Party and the Hindustan Republican Socialist Association and by isolating the Communist Party were seized from Mr. Jayaprakash Narain, Security Prisoner, Class I Deoli Camp, when he attempted to pass them on to his wife, Prabhavati Devi, at an interview, says the communique.

"If only to attract the youth of India," Mr. Jayaprakash Narain urges in these papers, "the formation of an underground wing of the Congress Socialist Party, which still acquires funds by the 'old method'. & He described this wing as "an illegal party designed to engage in illegal activities."

J.P. emphasised the political need for a clear distinction between the Anglo-German and the Russo-German war. "Our attitude should be," he says, "that we sympathise fully with Russia, but are helpless to do anything about it. At the same time, our opposition to Britain's war and our national struggle continue, and all our class movements. "

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The documents revealed the programme of the secret and avowedly illegal revolutionary activity. A "kisan" struggle in a selected area in contrast with the "farce of satyagraha" is strongly advocated.

Incidentally, the papers throw an interesting light on the conditions in Deoli Camp and the manner in which "grievances" are manufactured or ~~exploited~~ exploited.

Unsuccessful Attempt

The communique gives relevant passages from the documents seized, including a letter from J.P. to his wife, Prabhavati Devi, in which he reveals that he had made a previous unsuccessful attempt to communicate with her through an agent who failed to deliver the letter.

He continues: "You will have to proceed to Bombay with this letter. You should ask Purshottam (Purshottam Tricunddas) that he should write letters to me according to the instructions I have mentioned in my letter. You

this x should also grasp the method. Take an old book with a thick binding, tear the binding off, place the letter there, get the book bound again and send it. With two or three other books, a novel of Premchandji should be sent. The binding of ~~the~~ book should contain the letter, or the letter may be sent inside the binding of any other book, and the 'plus' mark should be made on page 100 with pencil. I will open the binding of the book which is marked with the plus sign. "

"Basawan Singh, the Secretary of the Bihar CSP should be informed to go underground. While underground, he should recruit men for the secret party. Financial help should be procured according to the old method (political dactyles). We cannot do anything except this.

2 "Sukulji (Jogendra Shukul of Bihar) also agrees with this proposal. The secret party will not be a separate body from the CSP, but its name will be a different one. Ganga Babu (Bihar Socialist and kisan leader) should work as joint secretary for the all-India party. He should tour the provinces and carry on the office work.

"We were on hunger strike for four days, about which I mentioned something in my letter. Get it copied at Bombay and take it with you for Bapuji. N.M. Joshi M.L.A. (Central) visited this place. We gave him everything in writing. Ask Purshottam to see him and take a copy for Bapuji. If he is not willing to give a copy to Purshottam, Bapuji can write to him for the same.

"I came with this letter to hand it over to you but could not do so. That is why I am sending it again through the same man; if you could get this letter, tell me tomorrow at the interview that you had a headache last night. This will be a hint for me of a delivery.

Referring to the Revolutionary Socialist Party, JP says: "I am anxious to impress upon you that I believe it to be absolutely necessary to bring the Revolutionary Socialist Party into our fold. There is every possibility of it. In Bengal, we cannot make any progress without this. I am saying so notwithstanding our Bengal friends. By 'bringing into our fold' what I mean is the Revolutionary Socialist Party merging with the CSP and disbanding their group. "

This is possible on the following basis:

" The CSP be the legal name of the party, and there is to be an underground wing functioning under an illegal name. I am now convinced that if we have successfully to stand up against the Communists, we must have a illegal organisation and illegal activities. I want to suggest that contact and friendliest relations should be maintained with the Revolutionary Socialist Party in Bengal. "

" On the , the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association also I have got the better elements competing with us. "

Farce Of Satyagraha

On the question of party propoganda, JP writes:

" Internal situation and the shift in the position of the Communist Party should be fully taken advantage of to push our propoganda forward. This is a very fine opportunity and must not be missed. All of you must give your fullest attention to this task. I read the news of your withdrawal of the satyagraha pledge; I liked it. But you must do something to bring out the Party's independent political line in contrast with this farce of satyagraha. I have begun to feel very strongly that we must do something spectacular at this moment. We cannot do anything big. But we must make a political investment at this moment. It does not matter if most of you are sent to ~~just~~ prison. In this connection, I have been feeling about Bihar that instead of just holding Kisan Conferences, the comrades should launch ~~in~~ a kisan struggle in a selected area or do something in the nature of action as distinct from agitation.

" An underground wing of the Party must be organised under a special name - Revolutionary Workers Party of India or anything else. The Punjab Party, as you know, is doing its illegal work under the name of the Communist League and is ~~publishing~~ an underground organ called "The Bolshevik". An underground all-India organ is necessary to attract the youth, if for nothing else.

" I have a suggestion to make. The Communist Party attacks both the Forward Bloc and the CSP, while the CSP and the Forward Bloc don't join hands together. We let the Communist Party exploit the CSP (Forward Bloc) against us. Why should we have allowed Mrs. Ranga to join hands with the Communists? Why can't you people get in touch with Caveeshar, Kamath and others who may ~~well-~~ disposed towards us and persuade them to join hands with us? My talks with Subhas Babu when

I was out should be fully ~~it~~ utilized for this purpose. The Anushilan or the Revolutionary Socialist Party should also be asked to help ⁱⁿ ~~for~~ this matter. I think, properly tackled, they would be very helpful;

In a note on the war and the attitude of the CSP towards it, JP first of all writes:

X " Till the invasion of Russia, we had looked upon the war as an Imperialist War. We were, therefore, opposed to the war and were endeavouring to utilize it to attain our own freedom. To help Britain in the war is not the same as to help Russia. Help to Britain would only strengthen British Imperialism. Therefore, the invasion of Russia cannot, in the least, affect our attitude towards Britain's war. A difference should have been drawn between the Anglo-German and the Russo-German war. The question remains: Can we do anything to render direct aid to the Soviet, without helping in any manner Britain's war efforts. The British Govt. have already announced that they are united with Russia in their common aim of destroying Hitlerism and have offered all help to the Soviets.

Help To Russia

" This opens up an opportunity for us to offer direct help to Russia and also incidentally, of putting British professions to test. Let us accordingly put it to the British Govt. that we are anxious to help Russia with men, money and materials and that we desire to be given the opportunity to organise this ~~is~~ also. We should further put it to them that if they are sincere about aid to Russia, our offer gives them an excellent opportunity to vindicate it. In making our offer, it should be made clear to them that our opposition to their own ~~may~~ war would continue unabated."

JP admits however, that this suggestion is entirely his own. "Saghar is afraid that the line I have suggested would create confusion in the public mind. He thinks the line of the Punjab CSP, as published in the Tribune, is better - namely, that we fully sympathise with the Russians, but are helpless to do anything about it. Owing to the help of the British Govt., my suggestion is more in the nature of a political stunt. "

Later on, the note is revised, and he writes:

" I do not think that it is advisable now to talk of sending volunteers, etc. to Russia. At least, we should not appeal to the British Govt. in that behalf. Our attitude should be that we sympathise fully with Russia, but are helpless to do anything about it. At the same time, our opposition

to Britain's war and our national struggle continues and all our class movements. We must at least express publicly our sympathy with Russia. "

The publicity of the sensational documents recovered by the Govt. from JP, the Congress Socialist leader, is likely to raise two questions in political quarters. First, whether the Govt. have taken care to make sure that the documents are genuine. Secondly, what the Govt.'s purpose is in publishing them textually

Official quarters probably expect to convince Mr. Gandhi and the Congress High Command that non-violence may be used as a cover for illegal activities and that if ~~the~~ a person in the position of JP could do it, there is urgent need for heart searching and "purge" among Congress leaders.

Unconscious Victims

The documents are also intended to give Central and Provincial legislatures something to ponder over and realise how grievances about life in jail or in a detenu camp may be used as a political stunt and that well-meaning legislatures may be the unconscious victims of a sinister game when they are approached to ventilate such grievances.

The fact that the papers were seized while being passed on to Mrs. JP at the interview is also of some significance. Mrs. JP is a prominent Congress leader and was the head of women volunteers at the Ramgarh session of the Congress.

It is expected that the India-wide publicity that is being given to the documents will help to reveal to jail officials how their wards may establish contact with the outside world and how apparently innocent remarks in a letter of interview such as "I had a headache^{ed} last night" may serve as a code for conveying an important message

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