

ALLEGED "DANGE LETTERS"

The Seventh Congress of the Communist Party of India endorses the following resolution of the National Council on alleged "Dange Letters."

"In March 1964, a widespread campaign was launched by the leaders of the splitters and disruptors of our Party, on the basis of the discovery of the alleged 'Dange letters' in the National Archives, and their publication in the *Current*, suggesting that Comrade S. A. Dange was a British spy or agent.

"The National Council of our Party strongly repudiated this charge in its meeting dated 10th April 1964. It stated that in its opinion, 'not even a *prima facie* case has been made out that the letters are genuine.'

"Nevertheless, in order to make a more extensive examination of all relevant and available materials and documents, including the circumstances as to how these letters were found and then distributed to the outside world and by whom, the National Council decided to set up a committee which was asked to submit its report within one month.

"The committee consisted of Comrades S. V. Ghatge, G. Adhikari, C. Rajeswara Rao, Bhupesh Gupta, Achuta Menon, Sohan Singh Josh and Hiren Mukherjee.

"The committee undertook a detailed examination of all aspects of the question, viz. the appearance, content and style of the alleged letters and the discrepancies revealed therein, the suspicions and dubious circumstances under which these letters were brought to light, the notorious British police methods of forging documents in order to discredit revolutionary workers and finally the record of Com. Dange's political activities at that particular time and during the subsequent years. It also examined all available evidence.

"The committee submitted its findings to the National Council on December 13, 1964. It could not complete its investigation earlier because of various handicaps under which it had to function, including the difficulty of having access to the papers concerned in the National Archives.

"The committee's report is not unanimous. There is a majority report signed by 5 members, viz. Comrades S. V. Ghatge, G. Adhikari, C. Rajeswara Rao, C. Achutha Menon and Hiren Mukherjee and a minority report signed by two members, Comrades Bhupesh Gupta and Sohan Singh Josh.

"The signatories to the majority report have come to the con-

clusion that 'The examination of the alleged letters of Dange shows that there are sufficient grounds to doubt the genuineness of the objectionable letters of Dange and Nalini. We have also to take into consideration the fact that Comrade Dange categorically denies having written these letters. Taking these things together, we can say that only on the basis of the appearance, content, style, etc. of the letters, their genuineness cannot be established; on the other hand, it has to be questioned.'

"They state furthermore, that: 'On the basis of these factors and even more on the basis of known facts of Dange's long, sometimes provocative and always prominent public career, and on the basis of the evidence before us, we come to the conclusion that the letters are not likely to be genuine. We therefore accept Dange's denial that he has not written them.'

"The majority report holds firmly and categorically that no member of the commission believes that Dange has ever been an agent of the government. It adds: 'Some may feel that there was a moment of weakness but this is not borne out from the whole of Dange's political life of almost half a century.'

"The signatories to the minority report also say: 'We do maintain that there is no proof whatsoever in the files that Comrade S. A. Dange at any time acted as a British agent or was a British spy. The repudiation by the National Council of this charge, therefore, stands fully justified.'

"The minority report, however, says that: 'After thus carefully considering all the relevant materials and subject to the limitations from which the present enquiry has suffered, we have come to the conclusion that it does not stand proved that any of the four 'Dange letters' is forged.' But it adds: 'If on the strength of the evidence, we do not adjudge the letters forged, neither are we prepared to declare that they are genuine mainly in view of Comrade Dange's denial. We would not like to condemn Comrade Dange without being one hundred per cent certain about the genuineness of these letters and without satisfying ourselves that there does not exist an iota of doubt about their genuineness.'

"It may be noted that both the reports are of the view that persons who got these alleged letters published in the *Current* and who subsequently carried on a slander campaign on their

basis, were motivated by a desire to discredit Com. Dange personally and to lower the prestige of the Party.

"The National Council, after having carefully examined the content of these Reports, has come to the conclusion that the alleged 'Dange letters' are not genuine.

"The National Council repudiates indignantly the foul propaganda carried on by the splitters and other enemies of the Party that Com. Dange has been agent of the British or Indian government."

SOUTH AFRICA

The Seventh Congress of the Communist Party of India sends its warm, fraternal greetings to the brave, militant fighters for freedom in South Africa. These gallant champions of liberty are battering down the last bastions of colonialism and racialism in conditions of savage repression and imperialist brutality. The whole heart and conscience of mankind applauds and supports their deeds of unparalleled heroism. It bows its head in homage to those who have laid down their lives in this sacred cause.

It notes with pride that India was the first country to break all diplomatic and trade relations with the racial fascist government of South Africa. The recent successful tour of our country of J. B. Marks and Dr. Yusuf Dadoo, outstanding leaders of the African National Congress, which was organized by the Indian Association for Afro-Asian Solidarity, and the large purses that were presented to them were manifestations of India's support for their cause. It welcomes the decision of the African National Congress to set up an office in Delhi in collaboration with the Indian Association for Afro-Asian Solidarity and the granting to it of all necessary facilities by the Government of India.

The hateful apartheid regime in South Africa would have collapsed under the hammer blows of the popular movement were it not for the economic and military aid extended to it by the imperialist governments of the United States of America and United Kingdom. It is essential that the Government of India joins all socialist and progressive Afro-Asian states in condemning this shameful support to South Africa and compelling them to give it up.