

RESOLUTIONS ON CURRENT EVENTS

KERALA ELECTIONS

Following the defeat of the Congress ministry and imposition of President's rule in Kerala in September 1964, the people of Kerala are again faced with mid-term elections early in 1965, for though there were reports that the elections were likely to be postponed the Government of India have now declared that the elections will take place as scheduled earlier.

The unprecedented food crisis that has enveloped the state during the last few months has already demonstrated what the people are going to suffer in the absence of a popular administration closely alive to their needs. In the context of the preparations for the Fourth Five-Year Plan, this absence is all the more keenly felt because there will be nobody commanding the confidence of the people to fight for a just share of the plan allotment to the state as well as for a hand in the shaping of it in accordance with the needs of the people. A government representing the interests of the workers, the peasants, the middle classes, the intelligentsia and the patriotic people united in and dedicated to the task of establishing a stable government and overcoming the economic backwardness of the state is the supreme need of the hour.

The Congress party cannot give the people such a government. Blinded by anti-communism and the greed for monopoly of power they encouraged all the communal and casteist forces in the state, formed all sorts of unprincipled alliances with such forces in order merely to win electoral successes and maintain their rule. The coalition ministry that came to power in 1960 was the result of such alliances. Immediately after coming to power they began to take steps reversing the progressive popular measures of the communist-led ministry in a reactionary manner, and against the interests of the people. Corruption, maladministration, inefficiency all became rampant. Ultimately the ministry

itself fell as a result of the fierce quarrel among the communal groupings which were competing to control it.

In these circumstances, it is the duty of the Communist Party to join hands with all the progressive, patriotic forces in the state in a firm united front so as to give a shattering blow to the Congress at the polls and form an alternative ministry capable of fulfilling the aspirations of the people of the state. The Seventh Congress of the CPI notes with satisfaction that efforts are being made by some of the leftist parties in the state to form such a united front based upon a minimum programme and these efforts have been widely welcomed by all progressive people in the country.

We cannot, however, shut our eyes to the fact that of late certain negative developments have taken place. The communal elements who have broken away from the Congress and who claim to represent two socially and economically dominant communities have come together to form a new party under the name of Kerala Congress. Now they have forged an alliance with the Muslim League also. The Swatantra Party has also entered the field and it has already declared its readiness to support this alliance. The "Kerala Congress" (Rebel Congress) and the Muslim League, apart from the fact that they seek to divide the people in the name of religion and caste, their role had always been very reactionary whether it be in the matter of land reforms, Education Act or state-trading in foodgrains.

Therefore, the task of the left forces at present is not so simple as it used to be in the former days. These left forces have to unite and fight to prevent the Congress coming back to power. At the same time, they have to conduct the fight equally vehemently against such a reactionary communal combination as the one represented by the Kerala Congress-Muslim League alliance. That is why the Kerala State Council of our Party has repeatedly made it clear that it will join only a united front of all democratic and progressive forces, groups and individuals and that it will have no truck with reactionary communal groups such as the Muslim League and the Kerala Congress. The Seventh Congress of the Party endorses that stand.

The Seventh Congress of the CPI wishes to reiterate that the

Communist Party has always stood and fought for the just democratic rights of the Muslim and other minority communities and the Party will continue to fight for those rights.

It is unfortunate that the SSP and the rival party are taking an equivocal stand on this question. The SSP has not yet declared its willingness to join the Left United Front. They are willing only to have adjustments in the matter of seats and this they are prepared to have not only with the left parties in the state but with all opposition parties including the Muslim League and the Kerala Congress. It is deplorable the rival party is trying to follow such a line.

Further when at a time Hindu communalism is raising its ugly head in many ways and undermining the secular nature of the state, strengthening of the Muslim League will not help to safeguard the interests of the religious minorities. On the other hand it will accelerate revival of Hindu communalism. Therefore, safeguarding of the interests of the Muslim community can be done only by strengthening the secular forces in the country. We appeal to the Muslim community to give serious thought to this matter.

Keeping in view the serious danger of communal reactionary forces outside the Congress gaining in these elections, apart from those within the Congress, the Seventh Congress of the CPI wishes to point out that the only correct path for all progressive democratic forces in the state is to take a principled stand on this question and fight both the Congress as well as the reactionary communal combination represented by the League-Kerala Congress. Any compromises with such elements will only help to strengthen reaction in the country and will deliver a disastrous blow to the whole democratic movement. The left democratic forces in Kerala are stronger than in many other parts of India and they can be fully confident of winning electoral success provided they stand united on a minimum programme of development for the state and relief to the people together with a principled stand on key issues of national significance.

The Seventh Congress makes a fraternal appeal to the SSP and the rival party to retrace their steps from the slippery and dangerous path they are contemplating and join hands with the

Communist Party, the RSP and all other democratic and progressive forces to forge a firm united front for the purpose of delivering a shattering blow not only to the Congress but to all types of reactionary combinations by whatever name called and give the people of the state an administration that will faithfully serve the needs of development of its backward economy, as well as give relief to its people.

The Seventh Congress of the CPI calls upon the people and all Party units in the country to give all support to the Communist Party in Kerala state in its principled efforts to form a united front of all left and democratic forces in the state. It calls upon all the Party members and sympathisers to help the Party in Kerala in all ways. The coming fight in Kerala is not a fight of the people of Kerala alone. It is a fight of all the communists and democrats in our country.

PRICE RISE AND FOOD CRISIS

The Seventh Congress of the Communist Party of India notes with grave concern the immensity of the food crisis through which the whole country has passed in the outgoing year. The crisis still continues. It is accompanied by the galloping rise in the prices of all commodities, has hit the common people very hard and has also stood in the way of the fulfilment of the Plan targets and involved the plan itself in a crisis. The anti-people character of the government's food and price policy was never so exposed as now.

The bankruptcy of the theories advanced by various spokesmen of the ruling party, and particularly by big business, from time to time, that prices of all commodities are rising and food is scarce only because production is lagging behind consumers' demand, has now been evident to everybody. Even the government has at last been forced to admit that an artificial crisis has been created by hoarders and profiteers, though big business circles continue to harp the same tune as before. It is now clear beyond doubt that the capitalist monopoly combines, with the tremendous concentration of economic power, speculators and the big landholders together have conspired to produce this