

STATEMENT

—NINE MEMBERS OF THE CEC,
April, 6, 1964

Comrades A.K. Gopalan, Jyoti Basu, P. Ramamurti, M. Basavapunniah, P. Sundarayya, Promode Das Gupta, Jagjit Singh Lyallpuri, Harekrishna Konar, Harkishan Singh Surjeet, members of the Executive Committee of the National Council of the Communist Party of India have issued the following statement :

The Secretariat of the National Council of the Communist Party of India has been coming out with a spate of insulting, irresponsible and provocative statements against those members in the Party, who do not agree with the Secretariat on political and organisational questions. Hence it is not possible for us to keep silent.

Faced with the publication in the *CURRENT* of 7-3-1964 of the letters that the Chairman of the Party, S.A. Dange, is reported to have written to the British Viceroy, the Secretariat shirked its elementary duty of investigating into those letters. Instead, it came out with the story of forgery and planting of the letters. It went further and linked, without any foundation whatever, those in the Party who are opposed to the Secretariat's political line, with publication and circulation of the letters and called them names.

After this, some members of the Central Executive examined the relevant files. Many members of Parliament have also gone through these records in this period. Some leading newspapers have commented that the Secretariat's story does not carry conviction. It should be known to the Secretariat that its assertion of forgery is widely disbelieved.

In these circumstances, one would expect that the Secretariat, if it was interested in safeguarding the revolutionary honour and prestige of the Party, would take some tangible steps to investigate into the files of the National Archives

situated within a couple of miles from the office of the Communist Party of India. But for reasons best known to itself, this is exactly what the Secretariat shuns like the plague.

After all this, the Secretariat had no alternative to calling emergent meetings of the National Council and its Executive. However, without waiting for their deliberations, the Secretariat again rushes to the press in the name of the Party, hurls abuses and charges against the so-called Left, calls them splitters and alleges that they are acting in furtherance of the call of the Communist Party of China to split the Party.

All these are crude attempts to burke the very serious and inconvenient issues concerning the Chairman, S.A. Dange. The letters that he is reported to have written to the Viceroy or the acquiring by him, under an assumed name, of shares of the value of Rs. 30,000/- in the company publishing *PATRIOT* have nothing to do with inner-Party controversy on the political line. It is not known what funds were used for this investment. As is known the *PATRIOT* is used against the so-called Left. Equally worthy of note is the fact that the Central Executive Committee of the Party, some years back, had directed that no member of the Party should have anything to do with the *LINK*, a sister paper run by the same people who publish the *PATRIOT*.

As for attempts at splitting the Party, it is precisely most of the members of the present Secretariat and foremost among them S.A. Dange, who have been, over years, throwing to winds all norms of the Communist Party, rushing to the press in denunciation of Party's policies and meeting in groups to sabotage the Party's policies. Instead of directing their attack against the so-called Left, let them explain how the entire proceedings of even the meetings of the Secretariat were finding their way into the press. It is they that sought to split the Party by the illegal organisational measures they resorted to in West Bengal, Punjab and other States, taking advantage of Government's repression against the militant section of the Party.

The informal meeting of some comrades now taking place has been necessitated precisely because of these activities of the Secretariat, which have led to an unprecedented crisis in the Party. We are seriously considering how to get the Party out of this critical situation.

Evidently, the Secretariat and the Chairman S.A. Dange realise that they do not represent the majority of the Party members, who by their own experience have come to realise that the present Secretariat is dragging the Party with its glorious traditions of struggle to the path of class collaboration. Hence, they seem to be bent upon splitting the Party.

They forget that they are only the Secretariat and cannot arrogate to themselves the powers of pronouncing judgment—because that is the exclusive prerogative of the National Council. It is noteworthy that some members of the Secretariat have refused to attend its meetings and associate themselves with these statements.

We are confident that Party members would see through these attempts at shirking the real issues and no one would be fooled by them.