

# VIMOCHANA TAKES DANGEROUS TURN

## EMS Draws Centre's Attention

Comrade E.M.S. Namboodiripad issued the following statement on July 25: I desire publicly to draw the attention of the Prime Minister of the country, the President of the Congress, and other leaders of the Central Government and of the Congress High Command to the dangerous turn which the "Liberation Movement", headed by the Vimochana Samara Samiti and participated in by political parties including the Congress, has taken during the last few days.

WHEN the movement was started on June 12 and 13, it was stated that it will be completely peaceful and non-violent. Congress leaders including the Prime Minister and the Congress President had stated that the Congress was participating in it with a view to preventing its taking undesirable and violent forms.

The Prime Minister did repeatedly make it clear that he was opposed to any form of direct action, but that he was agreeing, as a matter of compromise, to the "purely token" picketing of one (and of only one) batch of five persons picketing Government offices each day; even this token picketing should gradually be withdrawn. As for the picketing of schools and transports, he was in total opposition to them.

These clear directives of the Prime Minister were violated not only by the other parties and by the Vimochana Samara Samiti, but by Congressmen themselves. There are innumerable instances of leading Congressmen, including Congress MLAs, actively participating in and helping such anti-social activities as attacks on schools and transports, including attacks on the person of passengers and crew of transports and students and teachers of schools, under the ostensibly innocent garb of "schools and transport picketing."

As for picketing of Government offices being confined to one batch of 5 persons picketing a day, this restriction was never observed anywhere in the State. Dozens of batches each composed of more than five persons picketing an office under the leadership of well-known Congressmen, or mass

picketing by 50 or 100 and sometimes even more—again under the leadership of well-known Congressmen—these have been common occurrences.

It was this open violation of the Prime Minister's instructions by the leading members of his own party in Kerala that made me more than once remark that what is really required to-day is that the all-India leadership of the Congress should intervene in the affairs of the Kerala Congress and enforce all-India decisions on its own Kerala unit.

The leaders of the KPC and their allies of the Vimochana Samara Samiti were doing all this with the fond hope that such activities would so "paralyse the administration" here that the Ministry would be forced to resign; or in the alternative, the Central Government which, after all, is one working under the guidance of the Congress High Command, would intervene, dismiss this Ministry and establish President's rule. Neither of these hopes, however, has been fulfilled. The Ministry refused to resign. As for the Central Government, the hopes of the Opposition are receding further and further.

Sri Mannath Padmanabhan, the leader of the Vimochana Samara Samiti, and Sri Pattom Thanu Pillal, the leader of the PSP, are known to have come back disillusioned. Sri Pattom has actually made bitter complaints of the "hesitations" on the part of the leaders of the Central Government. As for Sri Mannath Padmanabhan, he has asked his followers not to pin their hopes on Central intervention, but to "act on their own." Sri Mannam, Sri Sankar and

a few others have also vaguely talked of the need for "amending the Constitution if the present Constitution does not allow Central intervention in Kerala now."

It would appear that they have all come to realise that, when the Opposition in a particular State starts a movement with the declared objective of paralysing the administration, the Constitution enjoins on the Centre to intervene not against, but in favour of, the State Government. That was probably why Sri Mannam in one of his statements in Delhi said that, if the Centre cannot remove the State ministry, it should at least allow the people of Kerala to act, in which case, he said, he was confident of "removing the Ministry by the people's forces."

Such a dashing of the hopes entertained by the Vimochana Samara Samiti seems to have made them take to more desperate and violent measures. Sri Mannam is reported to have told his followers that what remains to be done now is to further intensify the struggle, give up all scruples regarding peacefulness and non-violence which may well be left to Congressmen, and that too for talk.

The leadership of the Vimochana Samara Samiti is reported to have taken certain decisions on the ways and means of this intensification of the struggle which are to be discussed and finally adopted at a meeting of the representatives of the Taluk Vimochana Samara Samitis being held today at Chengannacherry.

Details of the decision taken by the leadership of the Samiti are not yet available. Yet an inkling of the way in which the minds of the leaders are working may be got from the following facts:

1) Attacks on the leaders and members of the Communist Party, as well as non-party people who are opposed to the "Liberation Movement" have been on the increase during the last few days. To take only a few instances of such attacks in and around Trivandrum City, it may be mentioned that Communist MP Sri Easwara Iyer and Communist MLAs Sri Sadasivan, Sri Prakasam and Sri Ravindran were attacked while they were travelling by bus or car. A van carrying bundles of copies of the city daily Kerala Kaumudi was also attacked. Attacks on the Communist Party offices and some offices of the SNDP Yogam and other Backward Class organisations have also taken place in various parts of the State.

2) Such attacks on the supporters of the Government have led at least to two deaths. One of these was in Trichur District where one Paylappan, reported to be a Communist sympathiser, died on July 22 at the District Hospital, Trichur. He had sustained a stab injury as a result of an attack on him and his companions on the night of July 13/14. The other is also from Trichur where about 26 supporters of the Vimochana Samara Samiti are

reported to have trespassed into the house of one Varunny at Ollur in search of his brother, Raphael. Varunny and members of his family are known as Communist sympathisers. Aliya, Varunny's father's sister, an old woman, who was laid up is alleged to have been thrown down from the verandah to the courtyard by three of the attackers and died as a result of the shock.

These are only two incidents of actual deaths, while there are hundreds of instances of the allegedly peaceful and non-violent volunteers of the "Liberation Movement" assaulting and seriously injuring the sympathisers of the Communist Party.

3) A series of incidents have been reported from various places where armed bands are moving about harassing the people; and when there is a possibility of the police party arriving, preventing their arrival through laying of obstruction on the road, demolition of roads and culverts, etc.

The latest of such incidents is that from Chengannur where yesterday the local authorities received reports of obstruction having been put in several places on the National Highway between Chengannur and Thiruvella. A police patrol party detailed to attend them found that there were several barricades erected between the 73rd and 74th mile stones. Meanwhile, information was received that some bridges on the roads were also being demolished.

A police party headed by the Circle Inspector which proceeded to the scene found that the bridge was barricaded with big boulders and stones displaced from the parapet wall on the one side which had been entirely demolished for the purpose. The action of the police party to remove these obstructions attracted big crowds who began to pelt stones and to try to encircle the police party. They had to fire two rounds in self-defence, though fortunately there was no casualty.

4) Picketing of Government offices is also taking more violent forms. It is worthy of mention here that on July 22 when a batch of 70 picketers was led by ex-Chief Minister Sri T. K. Narayana Pillal and others and when their picketing was over another batch of nearly 500 women collected in front of the Collectorate and started mass picketing and tried to force entry into the Collectorate. It is reported that Sri Narayana Pillal and other Congress leaders themselves told these new batch of picketers that the day's quota of picketing was over and that they should, therefore, disperse. It was against this advice that the crowd of picketers tried to force entry. The police had to resort to a lathi charge to disperse the crowd.

### "Ruthless Repression" Cry

This and the next day's lathi charge on the RSP picketers have been made much of as instances of "ruthless repression" resorted to by the Government. Those who make this charge, however,

forget that the organisers of this picketing make no secret of their intention of "capturing the Collectorate." As a matter of fact, four days previous to this incident, a crowd of picketers forced entry into the Collectorate and even put the flag of the PSP alongside the State flag in the Collectorate building. This is not an isolated incident, but should be seen in the context of the repeated calls of the leaders of the "Liberation Movement," to "capture Government offices including Secretariat."

5) Two incidents, one of which happened yesterday, afternoon and the other this morning are symptomatic of the way in which the "Liberation Struggle" is likely to be "intensified." The first of these incidents happened at Chemmanattukara, three miles away from Vaikom in Kottayam District, where at about 3.15 pm yesterday some 500 persons, under the leadership of Sri Kurimpashakkal Palley, an advocate, and armed sticks and daggers assembled in front of a Lower Primary School and assaulted some Communist sympathisers of the place.

When the Inspector of Police and an armed police party reached the place, the crowd ran away, but the police party chased them and arrested 43 of the rioters. Nine sticks, three metal rods and two daggers were recovered from the arrested persons. Five Communist sympathisers were reported to have received injuries, one of them with a serious injury.

The other incident was that four unknown persons scaled the walls at one corner of the Secretariat building, threw a lighted torch on one of the thatched sheds in the Secretariat compound housing the offices of the Director of Public Relations. The night watchman on duty detected it and called for the help of the fire engine but the miscreants had in the meanwhile run away. The timely arrival of the fire engine prevented the huge destruction that had obviously been planned, but a part of the thatched shed has been destroyed.

I would like to ask the Prime Minister, the Congress President, and other leaders of the Central Government and of the Congress High Command, what they would do if such acts of violence and destruction were committed in other States by the Opposition parties there. I am sure that, if even five per cent of this had been done by the Opposition in other States, the heavy hand of the State and Central Government would fall on them. Here, however, is a State where their own party is aiding and abetting these anti-social activities while the Congress High Command is charging the State Government with "ruthless repression."

I would ask the Prime Minister and other leaders of the Central Government: Are we not entitled to the same protection at your hands against these miscreants and instigators of violence and disorder as you have been giving to other State Governments. Are we to be denied this protection, simply because our Government happens to be one formed by a Party different from yours?

## CONGRESS RECORD

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lations Bill and wanted them to be amended in favour of the big landlords. While paying lip service in speeches to the Nagpur Congress resolution by opposing redistribution of excess land to landless agricultural labourers and poor peasants in the name of vesting the excess land in Panchayats to be cultivated by cooperatives formed by agricultural labourers (they also opposed the provision for assigning Kayal land above the ceiling to cooperatives of agricultural labourers, for they wanted no ceiling on Kayal land), the Congress was openly and unashamedly acting as advocates of landlords in the Assembly.

This is inevitable, because the logic of the Congress policies in Kerala cannot be escaped. Just as the Congress is supporting the move of the Kayal kings of Kuttanad to

leave their paddy fields uncultivated as a part of their struggle to remove the Communist Ministry from office, the Congress leaders have to become the champions of the same landlords against land reforms introduced by the Communist Government.

What all Congressmen throughout India should seriously ponder over is where blind anti-Communism and intolerance of the existence of a non-Congress Government, even in a single State, are leading the Kerala Congress leaders to, dragging the Congress High Command also behind it. Deliberate non-cooperation and even sabotage of Plan implementation and naked opposition to democratic reforms may be intended to cut the Communist nose, but they are by their action disfiguring the face of our nation. Can political exigencies be allowed to throw to the winds all principles and to endanger national interests?