

Sanjeeva Reddy Lets Down National Unity

BY E.M.S. NAMBOODIRIPAD

E.M.S. Namboodiripad, Secretary, Kerala State Council, Communist Party of India, has issued the following statement:

The 'clarifications' of Congress policy, made by Sanjeeva Reddy during his recent tour of Kerala, have helped in further confusing, rather than clarifying, the major question under discussion.

The question is not whether Communism is preferable to communalism or vice versa as Reddy tries to make out, but how, on the basis of what forms of practical activity, the growing threats to national unity can be effectively met.

FALSE POSER

Sanjeeva Reddy himself in a way admits this when he says that national integration is a task in whose fulfilment it is possible and necessary for the Congress and the Communist Parties to work together.

Reddy, however, combines this theoretical acceptance of the necessity for joint work between the two parties for national integration with his practical politics of keeping away equally from Communism and communa-

lism. To a question put to him at the Trivandrum press conference as to whom he would choose if, in a constituency, the only contestants are a Communist and a communalist, he replied with the stock analogy of the choice between the devil and the deep sea.

Such an answer would have been perfectly understandable before the Durgapur session of the AICC. But, as is known, the AICC considered that the forces of national disintegration, including communalism, are such a serious menace to the further advance of the nation that it is necessary for the Congress to fight them along with all other secular forces in the country.

One fails to understand how, under these circumstances, Reddy could bracket the two forces—communalism and an acknowledged variant of secularism—and call them equally dangerous.

DISHONEST PRACTICE

Far more serious than this is the divergence between the theoretical stand taken by Sanjeeva Reddy and its practical application in Kerala. If his analogy of the devil and the deep sea were correct, it would have meant that his

party should combat the forces of communism and communalism with equal vehemence.

It should neither fight communalism with the support of communism, nor fight communism with the support of communalism. That, however, is far from the actual position today.

Nobody would dispute the fact that the Congress is at least sharing power with the PSP in Kerala because, after the 1957 general elections when it had to go into opposition, the Congress deliberately adopted the policy of fighting the Communist Party with the support of such open forms of communalism as the Muslim League as well as its hidden forms like the Nair Service Society, SNDP and the Christian churches.

DURGAPUR'S DEMAND

The Durgapur resolution of the All India Congress Committee is opposed by sections of Congressmen in Kerala on the ground that it would lead to the break-up of the present Ministry. Yet Reddy has no hesitation in giving his full support to the coalition government which was the offspring of the policy of the alliance with these communal forces.

Our Party has repeatedly asked the Congress to clarify

its stand with regard to the Kuttippuram Assembly by-election, the approaching general elections to the Parliament and the local elections that are due to take place in Kerala.

KUTTIPURAM ELECTION

We have asked its leaders whether they would fight the Muslim League in these elections as they should in terms of the Durgapur Resolution, or whether they would give indirect support to the Muslim League by not only not putting up their own candidates against the Muslim League, but also by launching the ferocious and one-sided political attack on the Communist candidates. Sanjeeva Reddy has evaded these questions.

I would like, once again, to put the question clearly and sharply.

Does the Congress propose to leave uncontested those seats which are left to the Muslim League by the PSP?

If such a renunciation of the electoral fight is being made on the ground that those are seats in which the Congress has no possibility of success, then how is it that the Congress proposes to contest such Parliamentary seats as have returned Communist candidates in previous elections?

Again, if the Congress is leaving uncontested a few seats with no obligation to the Muslim League to support its candidate, why should the Congress as an organisation ban individual Congressmen from contesting those seats as some of the Kerala Congress leaders threatened to do in Kuttippuram?

Further more, if the policy is one of fighting Communism and communalism with equal vehemence, how is it that the Congress proposes to concentrate its fire against the Communist Party in the forthcoming Panchayat elections while keeping mum on the Muslim League?

VEILED ALLIANCE

Unless Reddy and his colleagues give coherent and clear answers to these questions, no other conclusion can be drawn but that Reddy's formula of equal vehemence in Congress attack against Communism and communalism is the veiled form in which he wants the present policy of alliance with the Muslim League to continue.

There is no use of talking loud about national integration when such a policy of continuing the alliance with the Muslim League is being pursued.