

# E. M. S. DENIES STORY OF RIFT IN C. P. I.

TRIVANDRUM, May 19

"The Amritsar thesis, accepting the democratic form as the method to achieve power, has not been challenged by anybody in the Party so far," said E. M. S. Namboodiripad, Acting General Secretary of the Communist Party of India, addressing Pressmen on his return from Calcutta after attending the session of the National Council of the Party.

NAMBOODIRIPAD was replying to questions on alleged differences inside the Communist Party over the political line to be adopted. He discounted all reports to the effect that there was a serious rift inside the Party "between the so-called nationalists and internationalists" as the product of "some fertile imagination" and said: "There have always been some differences on some point or other. At present there are not two, but several points of view about the meaning and significance of the recent political changes and economic development.

values and international laws, then what is the use of the Summit?" When asked whether he is accusing America of sabotaging the Summit, he said that he was "defending that attitude which intelligent Americans themselves are adopting."

A Correspondent asked whether he was of the opinion that Khrushchov did the right thing in refusing to participate in the Summit,

## Says it is a product of fertile imagination

Namboodiripad replied: "It is such an obvious thing that even a child can understand. Even prominent Americans like Presidential candidate Adlai Stevenson, have said it." When pressed further, Namboodiripad said: "In my personal opinion Khrushchov's stand is correct."

### IN KERALA

## DISCRIMINATION AGAINST COMMUNISTS

"But above all, there is complete agreement on certain essentials. These are, first, that it is necessary to combat the reactionary offensive launched by forces inside and outside the Congress against the progressive aspects of the Congress Government such as land reforms, public sector, etc., and secondly, that this struggle against the reactionary offensive should not lead to a slackening of the fight against the anti-people measures of the Congress Governments."

"We are seriously discussing the details of this understanding," Namboodiripad said. "The Party Congress is being called so as to work out the details of how to combine these twin tasks and evolve a practical programme for the Left and democratic movement in the country in relation to Congress Governments," the Acting General Secretary said.

### India-China Dispute

Asked whether there are any differences inside the Party at present on the India-China border issue, Namboodiripad said: "There is no difference at all. All the differences were thrashed out at the Meerut session itself. The Calcutta resolution on the border dispute was passed unanimously."

The Acting General Secretary was asked whether the Congress Government had gone over to the Western bloc as a result of all the foreign aid that India had got, to which he replied in the negative. When asked whether it was his personal opinion or that of the Party's, Namboodiripad said, "in my own personal opinion and on behalf of the Party, we think that India has not gone over to the Western bloc yet."

On the Summit, Namboodiripad said that he could not give the Communist Party's point of view because the Party had not yet discussed the recent developments. "Personally, I feel sorry that the Summit Conference could not take place," he said.

Namboodiripad continued: "When one country says 'I am carrying on espionage in your country because you are making war preparations,' and continues with espionage against all moral

Coming to the situation in Kerala State, Namboodiripad was asked about the discrimination against the Communist Party by the present Government. He gave instances to back his contention that the Communist Party was being discriminated against.

The first instance was that of the ban on Communist newspapers in the jails. When his attention was drawn to the State Home Minister's claim that some other papers were also not being supplied in jails, Namboodiripad said: "If there is any single paper in Kerala which does not carry on political propaganda and if that paper alone is given in the jails, then I can understand it. But that is not the case here, and it is very obvious against whom the discrimination is aimed.

"I sympathise with those non-Communist newspapers which had to go out along with ours. If Pattom Thanu Pillai's Kerala Janata and R. Sankar's Dinamani have also had to go out because of P. T. Chacko's action, I can only sympathise with them," Namboodiripad said.

### Kept Out Of Committees

As the second instance of discrimination he referred to the constitution of committees. "It was a charge against us that the then Opposition was not being given adequate representation in the committees. Compare the representation we are getting now with that which they got while we were in office, and you will see how we are being discriminated against."

When questioned about the charge that the Communist Party was preparing for mass agitation, Namboodiripad challenged the State Home Minister "to bring evidence if he has got any, and prove it." When his attention was drawn to the statement of an ex-Communist, Sukumaran, to the effect that the Party was planning an uprising, Namboodiripad said: "I am sorry if P. T. Chacko has to depend on such evidence. I sympathise with him."

In this connection, Namboodiripad defined agitation as "something legal and constitutional," as different from direct action. Agitation visualises "only such actions as meetings, peaceful demonstrations, passing resolutions and submitting memoranda. This kind of agitation is, being carried on in the very peaceful Britain by the Liberals."

### Law And Order Situation

Asked about the law and order situation, Namboodiripad said that when he visited his constituency a case of so-called suicide was brought to his notice. Irrespective of political parties, people there think that it is a case of murder and are demanding an investigation into the case. However, the police had not taken any steps in that direction and were keeping quiet.

"If the local gentry can hush up things like this and if the police are not taking any action in the matter, but abetting them in doing so, and the people in the area are apprehensive about the whole matter, then there is something wrong somewhere," he said. Asked whether it is an isolated case or a general trend, Namboodiripad replied: "I don't know whether it is the order of the day. Anyhow, I did not see the so-called 'morale' which the police is claimed to have regained, in this case."

On the Education Act, Namboodiripad said that the "Communist Party had always wanted to make the maximum adjustments without prejudicing the interests of the backward classes and the teacher community. The Party takes the same stand now, that is, we will not oppose any change in the Act if it does not go against the interests of the backward communities and that of the teachers."

Asked what the Party would do if the changes brought are such that the Communist Party considers them

to be against the interests of these two sections, Namboodiripad said: "It is for them to say whether any changes would adversely affect them, or not; and it is for them to decide on any course of action to face it." When questioned about the likely attitude of these two interests, he said he was "not a spokesman of those interests."

Sri Namboodiripad was asked about his stand on the Parambikulam water dispute with Madras. He replied: "When we were in office, we had given the utmost concessions to Madras so that the project might be taken up. The execution of our project was being delayed because of this dispute and it was to avoid this that we made that agreement at that time.

"However, the Madras Government flouted that agreement and tried to exploit the Adviser's regime here when we were dismissed and claimed more water. Pattom Thanu Pillai has now reportedly said that he would honour the previous agreement, but nothing more will be given to Madras. We are in agreement with him."

Asked about the allegation that the buildings put up by Madras at Parambikulam were constructed at the time of the Communist Government and with its consent, the former Chief Minister said: "The maximum that was permitted during our Government was for their engineers to come and make investigations."

Namboodiripad's attention was drawn to the rising food prices and the scarcity of rice and he said: "Naturally the people are worried about

it. The Government has to take some measures to check the rise in food prices and to ensure an adequate supply of rice through the fair-price shops."

When it was pointed out that during the Communist Government's period, only one measure of rice was distributed through the fair price shops and now one-and-a-half measures were being given, Namboodiripad said: "That seems to be only on paper. In my own constituency during the Vishu festival days not a single grain of rice was available in many of the fair price shops."

In reply to a question as to who is to blame for the short supply of rice, he said: "Initially I was inclined to blame the Centre. But now I feel that the State Government is also responsible for the position. It was to strengthen its hands while demanding rice from the Centre that we moved a resolution in the last Assembly session asking the Union Government to supply 25,000 tons of rice monthly. But they did not support that motion and it was defeated."

The Acting General Secretary of the Communist Party said that the National Council of the Party would meet once before the Party Congress, probably in Maharashtra some time in October though the exact venue and date are yet to be fixed. The Central Executive will be meeting two or three times before the Party Congress. The Commission appointed at the Calcutta Session of the National Council was to prepare a Draft Programme for the Party.

