

1929, 1930, 1936.

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Confidential.

(Contains Secret D.O. No. 30-30-I d/-
12-2-30

P.&M. 113 35

SECTION.

CASE NO

SUBJECT.

INDEPENDENCE RESOLUTION - Indian National Congress.

OFFICE

DISTRI

AGITATION - INDEPENDENCE

INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 89-223-I.

5-3

14-5-29

GOVERNMENT OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.

POLITICAL AND MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

FROM

H. C. GOWAN, ESQ., C.I.E., V.D., I.C.S.,

CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

Central Provinces.

TO

THE LORD BISHOP OF NAGPUR,
" JUDICIAL COMMISSIONER,
ALL COMMISSIONERS OF DIVISIONS,
THE POLITICAL AGENT, CENTRAL PROVINCES FEUDATORY
STATES,
" COMMISSIONER OF SETTLEMENTS AND DIRECTOR OF LAND
RECORDS, ETC.,
" CHIEF ENGINEERS, BUILDINGS AND ROADS AND IRRIGA-
TION BRANCHES, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
ALL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGES,
DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS,
THE VEN'BLE THE ARCHDEACON,
" CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS,
" INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF CIVIL HOSPITALS,
" DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,
" INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE,
ALL SUPERINTENDING ENGINEERS,
" CONSERVATORS OF FORESTS,
THE COMMISSIONER OF INCOME-TAX,
" DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH,
" DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE,
" DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRIES AND REGISTRAR, JOINT STOCK
COMPANIES,
" REGISTRAR, CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES,
" EXCISE COMMISSIONER AND SUPERINTENDENT OF STAMPS,
" LEGAL REMEMBRANCER,
" ACCOUNTANT GENERAL,
" VETERINARY ADVISER TO GOVERNMENT,
" PRIVATE SECRETARY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR,

Central Provinces and Berar.

Dated Nagpur, the 14th May 1929.

SUBJECT :—Exhibitions organized by or under the auspices of the
Indian National Congress.

SIR,

In view of the declaration of policy recently made by the Indian National Congress and the extreme political programme which it has adopted, the Government of India consider that it is undesirable that Government departments or Government officers should participate in any exhibitions or fairs organized by or under the auspices of the Congress and have issued orders that such exhibitions or fairs should not receive the support or co-operation of Departments or officials of Government in any way. I am to request that the orders of the Government of India may be observed carefully.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

For

Chief Secretary.

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 203-I.

GOVERNMENT OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES
Political and Military Department.

From

B. Gordon, Esq., I. C. S.,
Chief Secretary to Government,
Central Provinces.

To

All District Magistrates,
Central Provinces and Berar.

Dated Nagpur, the 17th January 1930.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor in Council to address you on the attitude to be adopted towards demonstrations which are likely to be held on the 26th/January, 1930, in accordance with the decisions of the Lahore Congress.

2. Government considers that it is desirable, so far as possible, to avoid the possibility of any physical clash which might embitter feelings. Where therefore it is proposed to hold processions, these need not be prohibited unless in any particular case the demonstration in itself is likely to be dangerous. Similarly, while it may be desirable to regulate processions in accordance with normal practice relating to routes, times etc., special conditions such as the prohibition of banners with revolutionary slogans or the shouting of cries should not be laid down. Generally the policy of "wait and see" should be adopted, and if any action should be thought necessary, it can be recommended subsequently against speakers whose utterances clearly bring them within the law and whose importance would justify such prosecution.

3. Government does not at present anticipate any serious trouble, but desires that, as a matter of precaution, all District Magistrates should be at their headquarters on the 26th January, 1930.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

B. Gordon
Chief Secretary.

No. 204-I, dated Nagpur, the 17th January 1930.

Copy forwarded to -

all Commissioners of Divisions,
the Inspector General of Police, Central Provinces,
for information.

B. Gordon
Chief Secretary.

I.A. 17/1.

S-5

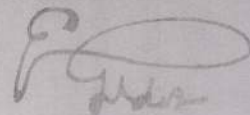
(4)

Nagpur,
February 12th, 1930.

My dear De,

In view of the present political situation arising out of the decisions of the Lahore Congress in favour of independence it is anticipated that there may be an increasing effort on the part of the Congress party to organise demonstrations and start propaganda in favour of the movement throughout the various districts. It has been suggested that, should this forecast prove true, it would be advisable to organise a definite system of counter propaganda. I am therefore to request that you will favour the local Government with your opinion as to whether it is desirable that such counter propaganda should now be undertaken in your division, and if so, to what extent. In this connection it has also been suggested that the formation of organisations such as the Aman Sabhas may be desirable. Government will be glad to have your advice on the suggestions after consulting such of your Deputy Commissioners as you may consider necessary.

Yours sincerely,



To

B. N. De, Esqr., I.C.S.,
Commissioner, Berar Division,
Amraoti. (Camp).

*Copy to all D.C.s (Berar) for forward
of yearly report*

56

Buldana

18/2/30

(5)

Commissioner,

Re your endorsement of 15/2/30

about the question of organizing
counter propaganda to the efforts
of the Congress Party. I have to
say that I think it would be
a sound thing to undertake
such propaganda in certain direct
ways. The distribution of

leaflets, as was done during
the war years. I am not in
favor of the formation of
organizations such as the
Aman Sabhas. The latter would,
I fear, tend to bring communal
differences into relief.

Yours sincerely

B. K. De

B. K. De Esq.

Commissioner

B. K. De

57 (6) 5
SECRET

Akola,

Dated the 4th March 1930.

My dear Mr. Dey

Please refer to your endorsement dated the 15th February regarding counter propaganda against the Congress agitation for Independence. I have discussed the subject with the District Superintendent of Police and both of us are of opinion that it is inexpedient at this stage to start any counter propaganda in this District. There have been no demonstrations since the 26th of January. Gole and Biyani who resigned from the Council and who had been touring in the District with a view to popularise the Congress programme, have been quiet.

2. All eyes are at present turned towards Ahmedabad where Gandhi is shortly expected to deliver his "Ultimatum". Unless, however, events develop with an unexpected rapidity, it is not anticipated that there will be any active campaign of Civil Disobedience in this District. Gole and Biyani are not very enthusiastic supporters of the Congress programme. Of course, we have to count with Sapre, Pendse, Sahasrabudhe & Co; but these people have not got any large following and they are not taken very seriously by the intelligent people. Only Sahasrabudhe tours in the interior. As you are aware, he had specially selected Mangrulpur Taluq for his propaganda to create another Bardoli. I have toured recently in that Taluq and my impression was that his lectures had created very little effect on the agriculturists.

3. Both Johnston and I are of opinion that so long as the agitators confine themselves to platform oratory, they should not be taken much notice of. At present they do not cut much ice with the people. It is apprehended that if any counter propaganda is started ~~in~~ at present, these -- people

people will get undeserved importance and will come in the limelight.

4. Berar is mostly following the Responsivist lead and not the Congress. The congress declaration of "Independence^{& Way}" is not seriously taken by the people at present. The public attention is really focussed on the Simon Report, which is to be shortly published, and the forthcoming Round Table Conference. There will ~~be~~ also be the Council elections to divert their attention. Unless, therefore, the agitators become violent or preach open violence, they might be left alone. We must concentrate on all nation-building activities - development of -- agriculture, establishment of Village Panchayats, -- extension of medical facilities, introduction of -- compulsory education, organization of village uplift and so on. These in themselves will be eloquent propaganda in favour of Government.

5. It must be realised that there will not much enthusiasm for the Aman Sabhas. The Liberals have neither the will nor the energy to launch upon any active campaign of propaganda ~~xx~~ in favour of Government. Even though they may not approve of the Congress programme, not many of them are prepared to come forward openly to oppose it. This is a very important consideration which has to be ^{borne in mind} ~~considered~~ in considering the advisability of forming Aman Sabhas. We shall have to fall back mainly on communalists who would naturally expect some reward or recognition for their services. This puts us sometimes in a rather awkward position.

6. It is an undoubted fact that the case of -- Government goes by default and the agitators have mostly their own way. Unfortunately, there is no Government party in India as in other democratic countries. Govern-
ment

can certainly expect the Ministers and the ministerialists in the Council to put the Government case before the country. This was expected by the framers of the Diarchical constitution; but it is unfortunate that diarchy has failed in this respect.

Yours sincerely,

G. S. Bhatia

B. N. De, Esqr., I.C.S.,
Commissioner, Berar,
c/o Commissioner, Nagpur Division,
N A G P U R

310
Amurati 8
26.2.30

Dear Mr. De,

Would you please
refer to your letter on the
subject of the proposal that
the Government should start
propaganda. I consider that it
is not desirable to make
any attempt to start propaganda
in this district at present. In
the first place the Congress
Committee has done little at
present owing to lack of funds

9 8-11

and secondly any propaganda
inspired by Government is
likely to be ineffective. The
number of gov. officials at a
position and influence who
could be induced to assist
~~numbers~~ is small and
they would by taking part
undoubtedly lose most of
the influence they possess.

Yours sincerely

Arbuthnot.

SECRET.

Camp Bhalar.

21st February 1930.

Dear Mr De,

Reference your endorsement, dated 15th Feb
1930, forwarding a copy of demi-official letter No. 30
30-1, dated 12th February 1930, from the Chief Secretary
to Govt., C.P.

I do not think the time is ripe for starting
a counter propaganda. The movement in favour of
independence has not attracted much attention in this
district and the Responsivists, who dominate the political
movement in this district, are at present for co-opera-
tion in the proposed Round Table Conference. Of course,
they do not oppose independence; to do so would be to
invite the charge that they are moderates, a charge that
an average politician is not anxious to face; but unless
the situation develops very rapidly in other parts of
the country, they would, at present, do no more than
is necessary not to lose the applause at public meetings.
A counter propaganda at this stage, by putting them on
the defensive, will only goad them into undesirable acti-
vity. I would suggest, therefore, that, for the present,
no such steps should be taken and that a final decision
should be taken only after the effects of the
publication of the report of the Simon Commission and
the announcement of the procedure and personnel of the
Round Table Conference are known, when ~~xxxx~~ counter
propaganda should be carried out with a telling effect.
The organization of Aman Sabhas, at
this stage, is expedient.

5-13

(11)

It is likely that the situation in other parts of the country may develop so fast that the average politician would be in danger of being swept off his feet. It would be then time to start counter propaganda in which the non-official party that might be in power in the Legislative Council could be easily persuaded to take a not insignificant share.

Yours sincerely,

Pannanand

B.N. De, Esquire, I.C.S.,

Commissioner, Berar,

Nagpur.

5-12 (12) Amraoti Camp. 12

Dated the 13th March 1930

My dear

Please refer to your secret D.O. letter No. 3030-I, dated the 30th February on the subject of the constitution of Aman Sabhas, I have consulted all the Deputy Commissioners and they are unanimously of opinion that the formation of organisations such as the Aman Sabhas is neither necessary nor desirable in the political situation at present existing in the country and I agree in this view.

2. Berar as a whole is in favour of following the policy of responsive cooperation and even Mr. Aney and his followers have ~~have~~ seceded from the Congress party. Apart from Wamanrao Joshi the leaders of the Congress organisation are irresponsible youths who do not command any influential following. Beyond indulging in platform oratory it is unlikely that they will succeed in doing anything substantial either to embarrass Government or to create a spirit of disregard of authority in the interior. The Liberals and Responsivists are already carrying on a certain amount of counter propaganda mainly with the object of winning the ensuing elections partly to enlist public sympathy with the Round Table Conference. Any attempt to organise Aman Sabhas with an indirect support of Government would, I fear, detract from the value of the work that these parties are doing at present. It is believed that neither the Liberals nor the Responsivists would favour the formation of Aman Sabhas. The situation is somewhat obscure and much will depend on the nature of the recommendations made by the Simon Commission and until the report is out I would recommend no action on the lines suggested.

3. As regards Mr. Gandhi's campaign of civil disobedience I understand Sahasrabudhe of Akola is making enquiries as to the places where common salt can be successfully

5-15 (13) 13
manufactured in Berar. I do not think there is any such
place in Berar. I doubt whether it is worth while to
interfere with the activities of this man and his followers
in this respect. They will, however, be watched.

Yours sincerely

To

E. Gordon, Esq., I.C.S.,
Chief Secretary to Government,
Central Provinces.
Nagpur.

5-16

14

No. 98/II.

GOVERNMENT OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.
Political and Military Department.

.-.-.-.

EXPRESS LETTER.

From

The Chief Secretary to Government,
Central Provinces.

To

All District Magistrates and resident
Sub Divisional Officers.
Central Provinces and Berar.

Dated NAGPUR, the 22nd January 1937.

Subject :- READING OF THE CONGRESS INDEPENDENCE
PLEDGE ON INDEPENDENCE DAY.

Government has received information that Jawaharlal Nehru as President of the all India Congress Committee has issued instructions to provincial congress committees regarding the celebration of Independence day on the 26th of January 1937, in which he has said that an essential part of the celebrations is the repetition of the Independence pledge of 1930. The copy of this pledge sent with his instructions follows the wording of the Independence resolution of January, 1930, omitting the last paragraph and substituting therefor the words :

"We therefore pledge ourselves afresh to this great cause of making India free and to the ending of the exploitation of our people and resolve to work to this end till success comes to our people."

2. The text of the pledge retains the passage :-

"The British Government in India has not only deprived the Indian people of their freedom, but has based itself on the exploitation of the masses and has ruined India economically, politically, culturally and spiritually."

and the rest of the pledge develops these ideas.

3. The words quoted are definitely seditious. Nehru's

action is regarded as a challenge to Government which should be met. Government is, therefore, issuing a notification in the gazette under section 19 of the Indian Press (Emergency Powers) Act, 1931, declaring every document containing this pledge to be forfeited to His Majesty. A copy of this notification is enclosed. With this notification the communique attached is also being published.

4. You should take immediate steps to make the contents of the notification and the communique known in all places where attempts to read the Independence pledge may be made.

5. Government intends to enforce the law against persons acting in contravention of it. If any person attempts to read or otherwise give publicity to this pledge, or any portion of it containing the passage above quoted, you should report the facts for the orders of Government with a view to his prosecution either under section 5 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1932, or under section 124-A Indian Penal Code.

Chowdhury

CHIEF SECRETARY.

No. 99/II dated NAGPUR, the 22nd January 1937.

Copy forwarded to - -

all Commissioners of Divisions, Central Provinces and Berar,
the Inspector General of Police, Central Provinces,
 for information.

Chowdhury

CHIEF SECRETARY.

H.G.22/1.

5-18

16

GOVERNMENT OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.
Political and Military Department.

NOTIFICATION.

Nagpur, the 22nd January 1937.

No. 97/II.- In exercise of the powers conferred by section 19 of the Indian Press (Emergency Powers) Act, 1931, (Act No. XXIII of 1931), as applied to Berar, the Governor in Council hereby declares to be forfeited to His Majesty all copies wherever found of the document in English containing the so-called Independence resolution or pledge of the Indian National Congress, and all other documents containing copies, reprints, or translations of, or extracts from the said document, inasmuch as it contains matter of the nature described in section 4(1) of the said Act, as amended by section 16 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1932 (Act XXIII of 1932), as applied to Berar.

2. This resolution or pledge runs in the following or similar terms:-

"We believe that it is the inalienable right of the Indian people, as of any other people, to have freedom and to enjoy the fruits of their toil and have the necessities of life, so that they may have full opportunities of growth. We believe also that if any Government deprives a people of these rights and oppresses them, the people have a further right to alter it or to abolish it. The British Government in India has not only deprived the Indian people of their freedom, but has based itself on the exploitation of the masses, and has ruined India economically, politically, culturally and spiritually. We believe therefore that India must sever the British connection and attain Purna Swaraj or complete independence.

"India has been ruined economically. The revenue derived from our people is out of all proportion to our income. Our average income is 7 pice (less than two pence) per day, and of the heavy taxes we pay, 20 per cent

5-19 (17) 17
" are raised from the land revenue derived from the peasantry and 3 per cent from the salt tax, which falls most heavily on the poor.

"Village industries, such as hand-spinning, have been destroyed, leaving the peasantry idle for at least four months in the year, and dulling their intellect for want of handicrafts, and nothing has been substituted, as in other countries, for the crafts thus destroyed.

"Customs and currency have been so manipulated as to heap further burdens on the peasantry. The British manufactured goods constitute the bulk of our imports. Customs duties betray clear partiality for British manufacturers, and revenue from them is used not to lessen the burden on the masses but for sustaining a highly extravagant administration. Still more arbitrary has been the manipulation of the exchange ratio which has resulted in millions being drained away from the country.

"Politically, India's status has never been so reduced as under the British regime. No reforms have given real political power to the people. The tallest of us have to bend before foreign authority. The rights of free expression of opinion and free association have been denied to us, and many of our countrymen are compelled to live in exile abroad and cannot return to their homes. All administrative talent is killed, and the masses have to be satisfied with petty village offices and clerkships.

"Culturally, the system of education has torn us from our moorings and our training has made us hug the very chains that bind us.

"Spiritually, compulsory disarmament has made us unmanly, and the presence of an alien army of occupation, employed with deadly effect to crush in us the spirit of resistance, has made us think, that we cannot look after ourselves or put up a defence against foreign aggression, or even defend our homes and families from the attacks of thieves, robbers and miscreants.

S-20

(18)

18

"We therefore pledge ourselves afresh to this great cause of making India free and to the ending of the exploitation of our people and resolve to work to this end till success comes to our people."

By order of the Governor in Council,

C. F. Waterfall,

Chief Secretary to Government,
Central Provinces.

VTJ. . .
22.1.

5-21
GOVERNMENT OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.
Political and Military Department.

COMMUNIQUE.

19
22 JAN 1937

Government has received information that provincial congress committees have received instructions from the President of the all India Congress Committee to the effect that on the 26th of January 1937, the so-called Independence resolution or pledge of 1930 with some amendments is to be proclaimed or published publicly as part of the so-called Independence day celebrations. This resolution or pledge contains the following passage :-

"The British Government in India has not only deprived the Indian people of their freedom, but has based itself on the exploitation of the masses and has ruined India economically, politically, culturally and spiritually."

2. This passage is definitely seditious, being calculated to bring into hatred or contempt His Majesty's Government established by law in British India. The Governor in Council has, therefore, issued a notification under section 19 of the Indian Press (Emergency Powers Act) 1931 (Act XXIII of 1931) in the Central Provinces Gazette, declaring every copy of a document containing this pledge and all other documents containing copies, reprints, or translations of, or extracts from the said document to be forfeited to His Majesty.

3. Further, it is the intention of the Governor in Council to enforce the law against any person who may give publicity to such resolution or pledge, or to any portion of it containing the passage above mentioned.

C.F. WATERFALL.

Chief Secretary Government,
Central Provinces.

H.G. 22/1.

S-22
D.O.No.C/26

(20) 20
Akola,

The 22nd January 1937.

Dear Mr. Binney,

I enclose herewith translation of a leaflet, which has been printed at the Rajasthan Press, Akola in large numbers for distribution on the 26th instant. I understand that copies have been sent to all districts in Berar and possibly outside. I have sent a copy of the original leaflet direct to Mr. Waterfall to avoid delay as Government may like to take action under section 99-A Cr.P.C.

Yours sincerely,

RKR Ramadhoji

Enclosure : 1

A.L. Binney, Esq., I.C.S.,
Commissioner, Berar,
Amraoti-Camp.

S-23 21
Bande Matram. (21)

The resolve of the nation.

Vow of the independence day to be proclaimed on the
26th of January every year.

.....

It is our belief that like any other people we have the right to enjoy liberty, to use the fruit of our own labour and to earn the necessities of human life and that this right can not be snatched away by any body else. If any Government is depriving a people of this right and is perpetrating tyranny, such people have the right to alter or to destroy that Government. The British Government in India have robbed the Indian people of their freedom and further they (Government) have kept themselves in existence only by sucking the life blood of the masses; and have destroyed India in every way - i.e. economically, socially, culturally and religiously. We think that India should break her -- connections with the British and obtain "Purna -- Swarajya" (complete independence). India has been destroyed economically. The amounts recovered from us by the Government in the shape of taxes are, in our view, altogether out of proportion. Our average daily income per head is 7 pies. Out of the exorbitant taxes we are paying, 20 % are being recovered from the cultivators on land. Another 3 % is on salt and it is mostly the poorer classes who have to bear this. Occupations like hand spinning have been destroyed and the cultivators have been forced to be idle for 4 months every year; and as there are no subsidiary occupations it has dulled their intelligence. No new industries have been created to replace the ones which have disappeared. The rates of exchange and customs have been so fixed as to over burden only the villagers to a still greater extent. The largest portion of

22 (22) 523
imports is of British manufacture. The customs rate clearly show invidious partiality to the British goods. This amount is not being utilized to give a relief to the masses, but to defray the expenses of an expensive administration. The exchange rate has been fixed even more arbitrarily and it has resulted in a heavy drain of wealth from the country. Politically the condition of India was never so low as it has been under the British regime. In spite of the reforms the people have obtained no political power. The greatest amongst us have to bow down before a foreign power. The independence of thought and of unification have been denied to us and a number of our country men have been deported to foreign countries. They cannot return home. Our ability to run the administration of a state has been destroyed and the people have to content themselves with unimportant officers in villages and with clerk-ships. Culturally the present system of education has destroyed our old supports and our new training is only teaching us to love the chains that keep us in bondage.

Our forcible disarming and the foreign troops which are present in the country have been utilized to destroy our powers of self protection and we have begun to think that we can not protect ourselves, withstand a foreign invasion or protect our properties and families from thieves and dacoits. It is our opinion that it is an offence against humanity and against God to bow down any more before a regime which is responsible for reducing our country to such a pitiable condition all round. Therefore, to put a stop to our people being looted and for the independence of India, we vow that we shall fight unceasingly till our nation is victorious.

S-25
23
P.&M.
D.O.No.C/28

Camp Barsi Takli,

The 23rd January 1937.

Dear Mr. Binney,

In continuation of my previous demi-official letter No.C/26, dated the 22nd January 1937, search warrants were issued by me for searching the offices of the -- Rajasthan Press, the Matribhumi and the residence of -- Brijlal Biyani, which are all in the same building, as it was reported that leaflets in Marathi of the congress independence pledge were to be found in those places. In the Rajasthan Press seven copies of a supplement of the Matribhumi reproducing in Marathi the independence pledge and a copy of the original leaflet containing the independence pledge in Marathi together with a copy in English were seized. Nothing was found in Biyani's house and 160 copies of the supplement were seized from the office of the Matribhumi. Search warrants have also been issued for searching congress offices in various parts of the -- district.

2. Action against the press and the paper are being considered by me. *A report will be sent in due course.*

3. Brijlal Biyani has sent a telegram to ^{several} ~~all~~ papers about the ban imposed by the Government declaring that the Local Government has found a pledge which has been reiterated every year by the congress since 1930 seditious and this is another example of interference in elections etc. He has also wired to Jawaharlal Nehru subsequent to the search of the Rajasthan building asking for instructions for the 26th (Independence Day).

4. Early this morning it appeared that a number of copies of the supplement of the Matribhumi were distributed. It is likely that on the 26th an attempt will be made by congressmen to give publicity to the contents of the

S-26

24

- 2 -

leaflet. I am considering the action to be taken. The District Superintendent of Police thinks that action under section 108 against the office-bearers of the congress committee may be necessary and it may also be necessary to declare the meeting an unlawful assembly. I would like to know, as early as possible, if Government wishes any -- particular course of action to be followed.

Yours sincerely,

R. K. Ramadhyani

A. L. Binney, Esq., I. C. S.,
Commissioner, Berar,
Amraoti-Camp.

5-27
25
25
D.O.No.C/28

Camp Barsi Takli,
The 23rd January 1937.

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S-28

26

(26)

- 2 -

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Yours sincerely,

Sd/- R.K. Ramadhyani

A.L. Binney, Esq., I.C.S.,
Commissioner, Berar,
Amraoti-Camp.

5-24
D.O. No. 17.

27
Buldana.

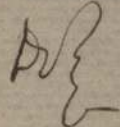
24-1-37.

My dear Binney,

The D.S.P. and I received the Chief Secretary's letter No. 98/II, dated the 22nd current about the reading of the Congress Independence pledge on Independence Day this morning a few minutes before the usual delivery hour, viz., 11 A.M. We rushed to the Post Office and intercepted a letter addressed to the Secretary, Taluq Congress Committee, Buldana, from Brijlal Biyani, President of the Berar Provincial Congress Committee. I enclose a copy of the letter for your information. If the instructions issued by Biyani stand, the pledge will not be read on the 26th January.

2. As the document containing the so-called Independence resolution or pledge has been forfeited to His Majesty, I have issued search warrants as requested by the D.S.P. to search the Congress Committee offices in the district to seize the documents. Loke tells me that he had received a wire to be at Headquarters in this connection, but I received no such intimation and ordinarily I should have been at Bawanbir about 60 miles from here today, but I had to cut short my tour as my son fell seriously ill.

Yours sincerely,



To

A.L. Binney, Esquire, I.C.S.,

Commissioner, Berar,

Amraoti Camp.

The 27th January 1937.

Dear Mr. Binney,

Will you please refer to Mr. Waterfall's demi-official letter No. CC/198-I, dated the 24th January 1937, regarding the supplement published by the Matri Bhumi of Akola on the 21st of January 1937, a copy of which has probably been sent to you ?

2. It appears to me from the statements issued by Brijlal Biyani after the notification under section 19 of the Indian Press (Emergency Powers) Act of the 22nd instant and from other papers, which the police came across when offices of the congress and other places were searched, that the general belief was that the independence resolution would not be objected to. The Matri Bhumi probably --- published this supplement under that general belief and not defiantly in spite of the previous forfeiture of security. If Government also is of the same opinion, I recommend that the paper may be merely warned this time.

3. The passage contained in the supplement and quoted in the Chief Secretary's letter is, however, -- definitely seditious and Government may hold that the paper should not have published such a passage whether it was likely to be objected to or not. If this view is taken, I recommend that Rs.1,000/- of the security may be forfeited under section 6 of the Act. The paper will then be asked to deposit an additional amount of Rs.1,000/- under section 5 of the Act. Demand of an additional sum of Rs.1,000/- is not likely to cause the management to stop publication.

Yours sincerely,

R. K. Ramadhyani

A.L. Binney, Esq., I.C.S.,
Commissioner, Berar,
Amraoti-Camp.

5-31
(29)
29
D.O.No.C/39

Akola,

The 30th January 1937.

Dear Mr.Binney,

With refer to my demi-official letter No.C/37 dated the 28th January 1937, to Mr.Waterfall, copy of which was forwarded to you, I find that in the Akot tahsil the Local Government's prohibitory order regarding the -- independence pledge of the congress was ordered by the local officers to be proclaimed by beat of drum. This has been misrepresented by the local congress people as a prohibition to attend congress meetings or to ^{Note} ~~work~~ for congress.

2. A copy of this letter may kindly be sent to Mr.Waterfall.

Yours sincerely,

RK Ramadhyani

A.L.Binney, Esq., I.C.S.,
Commissioner, Berar,
Amraoti-Camp.

5-32
30
D.O.No. 116.

Camp Pandharkaora
The 1st February 1937.

My dear Waterfall,

I forward a copy of a reply from Ramadhyani to your letter about the forfeiture of the security of the Rajasthan Press. I am not familiar with the history of previous Independent Day declarations; but I believe that the Congress Working Committee's resolution of 1930 has not previously been banned. If this is correct, I do not think that there is a case for forfeiting any of the security. I agree with Ramadhyani that the 'Matrri Bhumi' probably did not publish the supplement in a spirit of defiance. As soon as the ban on the resolution was published, the Congress organization in Berar took immediate and adequate steps to see that the resolution was not read.

Yours sincerely

o/c

C.F. Waterfall, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S.,
Chief Secretary to Government, C.P.,
Nagpur.

Enclosure:-

Copy of D.C. Akola's
D.O.No.C/34 of 27-1-37.

5-33
31
D.O. No. 23.

Buldana.

1-2-1937.

My dear Binney,

The so-called Independence pledge which was banned by Government was not read anywhere in the district though Independence Day was observed by holding meetings at Buldana, Khamgaon, Shegaon, ~~and~~ Malkapur.

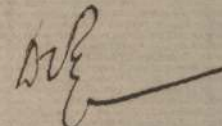
Yours sincerely,

To

A.L. Binney, Esq., I.C.S.,

Commissioner, Berar,

Amraoti Camp.



FORM 1.
Reference to latter cases.

Subject.	File No.	Year.	Section.
<p>S-35</p> <p>Aotai - 35</p> <p>25-11-13</p> <p>Vaishali</p>			

Reference to previous cases.

Subject.	File No.	Year.	Section.
Maharashtra State			