

STATEMENT

*Secretariat of the National Council,
April 1, 1964*

The Central Secretariat of the Communist Party of India is deeply concerned at the serious threat to disrupt and split the Party which has been openly and publicly made in a concerted and pre-planned manner by certain members of the Central Executive Committee and the National Council.

Several of the State Committees of the Party have adopted resolutions calling for immediate action to save the unity of the Party and to discipline the splitters.

The Central Secretariat has decided to convene an emergent meeting of the National Council on April 10 to deal with this grave inner-Party situation. Party members and supporters can be confident that the highest organ of our Party will take all necessary steps to foil the attempts at disruption and split and to vindicate the honour and integrity of the Party.

The entire Party is fully aware of the splitting activities being carried out today on an international plane at the behests of the leadership of the Communist Party of China, who have given the call for split in open and radio broadcasts. In some Parties, the Chinese leadership have already succeeded in their objective and have split them.

The Communist Party of India has been a special target of the leadership of the Communist Party of China. As long ago as March 1963, the Chinese leadership came out with its attack on the Party in the article titled "Mirror For Revisionists". The Party was denounced as an agent of Nehru and of imperialism. This attack was followed by the foul and pernicious slanders against our Party made by the Chairman of the Indonesian Communist Party in October 1963. And again in its latest call for disruption issued on February 4, 1964, the Chinese leadership has once more launched a special assault on our Party.

Each of these attacks, particularly that of February 4, is an open call for the establishment of a rival "Communist Party" of India.

The present phase of the inner-Party situation cannot be divorced from this context. For several months now, certain leading members of our Party have been actively campaigning against the Party's policies and slandering the Party's leadership. Party members are fully aware of these activities.

With the new line of open split of every Communist Party decided upon by the Chinese leadership and given expression to in their February 4 article, the supporters inside our own Party of the ideological positions of the Chinese leadership have evidently now decided to split the Indian Party also.

To that end they are now carrying on public agitation against the accepted line of the Party, organising press conferences for vilifying and denouncing the Party leadership, holding open meetings and conferences of Party members of their point of view on an all-India scale to chalk out the political and organizational tasks and future line of action of their "rival group". They have resorted to the totally unprecedented step of setting up a rival candidate to the official Party candidate in the Rajya Sabha election in Andhra Pradesh. Indeed, as some of them have admitted in press statements, they have been functioning as a separate party for some time past.

The campaign of slander launched recently against Comrade S.A. Dange is only the highpoint of these splitting and disruptive activities—the excuse which is being made for the line of split and disruption.

The Central Secretariat of the Party has already made its position clear in regard to the letters alleged to have been written by Comrade Dange to the British authorities forty years ago. The entire public record of Comrade Dange for the last forty years, the positions of trust he has held all along inside our

Party, his seventeen years in prison, including thirteen years in British jails, and the great working class movement he has built, are testimony enough of his political integrity and his devotion to the cause of our Party. The vast masses of the Indian working people, who know Comrade Dange's record, naturally treat these slanders against him with the contempt and revulsion they deserve.

No circumstances whatsoever can justify the public and open slander campaign launched by certain members of the Central Executive Committee and the National Council during the last few days against the Party and its Chairman. If there were the slightest genuine ground for their apprehensions regarding the authenticity of the alleged "letters" it was open to these members to discuss the question with the Secretariat and call for an immediate meeting of the National Council, where they could put forward any appropriate proposals. The very fact that they did not do this, but instead rushed to the press in an organised manner through a series of statements is proof of their derermination to split and disrupt the Party.

This is a moment when the entire Party is engaged in the biggest national mass campaigns in the entire history of our Party, when millions are taking part in these campaigns under the banner of our Party. Disruptive and splitting activities, slanders against our Party's Chairman at this time amount to nothing less than stabbing the mass movement in the back and betraying the struggles of the working people.

The Central Secretariat will place before the coming meeting of the National Council a detailed report on the splitting activities of certain leading Party members and will recommend drastic steps against them.

The Party can and must answer the challenge of the splitters. The unity and integrity of the Party is in peril. All Party members and units should rise to the occasion to take strong steps to save the Party from split and disintegration.