

**ALL TOGETHER...FOR THE RELEASE OF GANDHIJI
TO END THE NATIONAL CRISIS**

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Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India, passed at its meeting, February 15, 1943.

A situation of the utmost gravity faces our people to-day. The reckless act of the bureaucracy on August 9, drove the vast masses of our patriots away from the path of National Defence. The treacherous Fifth Column sought shelter in the bosom of patriotism. The conflict between the Government and the people aggravated every problem in the land. Economic dislocation and crisis deepened into a crisis of the barest necessities of life of the people, of food itself.

Starvation and famine face the nation at a time when the ruthless Jap invader is at our doors.

Now Or Never!

No longer could the nation's leaders behind prison bars continue to be helpless witnesses to this disaster. Gandhiji's fast is a desperate call to the entire nation to wake up before it is too late and unite to save itself from utter extinction.

The same hands that locked the jail gates on the nation's leaders on August 9, refuse to unlock them now. The life of the nation's foremost leader is in peril. His call for settlement, the only way out, is spurned.

The crisis is deepened a hundredfold.

It is "Now or Never" for our entire nation. We either get Gandhiji out and solve the crisis; or we sink in it deeper still irrevocably, and helplessly get carried on by it from the arms of one enslaver into those of another.

Whether we can get Gandhiji out or not today—on this depends whether our entire nation passes from crisis to salvation or to death.

A Rebuff to Slanders

Gandhiji's statements have swept away every obstacle, every prejudice, that stands in the way of our great patriotic parties uniting among themselves and with the peoples of the United Nations.

He has answered back all the slanders hurled against our national movement by the bureaucracy and has reaffirmed the staunch anti-Fascist stand of the Congress. He has categorically disowned sabotage and anarchy on behalf of the Congress. He has revealed that the Congress was on the eve of new negotiations with the League prior to August 9; he has indicted the Viceroy for blocking Rajaji's efforts to interview him after his talks with Jinnah.

He has opened the door wide for settlement with the League, for united negotiations with the Government.

Viceroy's Challenge

The Viceroy's "No" to Gandhiji shows the length to which wooden-headed reaction can go. They don't want settlement with the Indian people; they want our downright surrender.

Every patriotic party, every patriot should wake up and see where this policy leads our nation. The Viceroy's "No" to Gandhiji is not a mere private quarrel between the Congress and the Government. It is an ultimatum delivered to every patriotic party, to our entire nation—either surrender or nothing.

Accentuation of the misguided struggle against the means of our National Defence; new lease of life to the Fifth Column just at a time when its whole political basis has been knocked off clean by Gandhiji's statements; deepening of the food crisis into famine and food riots—this is what awaits our nation if the Viceroy's "No" is allowed to stand.

India's gates would be left wide open and the Jap invaders could walk in any time it suited them.

Bureaucracy On Last Legs

The glorious traditions of our patriotic national parties, the sound patriotic instincts of our great people, cannot look on in passivity and silence before this shameful prospect. Out of this very prospect itself, out of the present die-hard stand of the Viceroy has opened out the biggest opportunity for our nation.

Never before has the reactionary Bureaucracy isolated itself so completely from every section of Indian public opinion, from every section of international public opinion. All the slanders of Amery and Co. against the Indian people, fabricated to isolate them from their international allies, are being blown up. All the barriers of misunderstanding and prejudice between the Congress and the League are being removed.

The movement for the immediate and unconditional release of Gandhiji as the only way of ending the crisis has already begun to sweep all over the land. All patriotic organisations and associations are coming into it. From the threatened province of Bengal has come the most inspiring example of a united lead—the demand of the Bengal Legislative Assembly for Gandhiji's release, a demand supported by all parties including the Muslim League and the Hindu Mahasabha. The coming Delhi Conference should rally the biggest mobilisation of united Indian public opinion.

Unite To Stop Sabotage

At this critical hour in the destiny of our beloved Motherland, the Communist Party appeals to every patriotic brother party, to every patriotic son and daughter of India :

All unite and win Gandhiji's release to end the crisis ! In the name of Gandhiji, stop sabotage and smash the Fifth Column !

We appeal to all our brother Congress patriots. From behind prison bars, Gandhiji has disowned sabotage and anarchy; he has given the call for unity with the League. In the sacred name of the Congress, in the name of Congress-League unity, stop sabotage and anarchy, smash the Fifth Column which has been running amuck with the Congress banner the last six months. This is the way you can act as true soldiers of the Congress, this is the way you can get the League to join you in winning Gandhiji's release.

Call To League Patriots

We appeal to all our brother League patriots. On your

shoulders rests the biggest responsibility to-day. There are now few barriers, of prejudice or misunderstanding left between you and the Congress. Gandhiji has disowned the campaign of sabotage and anarchy, he has stretched out on behalf of the Congress his hand of friendship towards you through the prison bars.

Nothing but these bars stand between you and your great brother party ; between you and National Government which you so ardently desire and urgently need; between you and the satisfaction of your just demand for self-determination. The Viceroy has already said "No" to this just demand of yours.

For Self-Determination

The Viceroy demands surrender of the Congress. To tolerate this demand is to help the bureaucracy to crush the biggest brother party of yours in the country through which alone you can realise your fight of self-determination.

To tolerate this is to allow the bureaucracy to smash all Parties after smashing the Congress.

The Viceroy has turned down even Gandhiji's proposal to consult the Congress Working Committee members. To allow the Viceroy's policy to stand, to allow the Congress call to you to go unheeded, is to miss your biggest chance of winning freedom for the Muslim masses and salvation for all. In the name of the Muslim masses of the threatened provinces, in the name of the traditions and aspirations of your own great organisation, throw in your entire weight to get Gandhiji out.

Forward All !

We appeal to the Hindu Mahasabha patriots, to every one of our brother patriots throughout the length and breadth of India, to unite with each other and win Gandhiji's release and end the crisis. We specially appeal to the working class, Kisan and student organisations to rally behind the campaign for Gandhiji's release and to isolate those who try to exploit Gandhiji's fast for creating anarchy. One simple step forward and we force the bureaucracy to bend and save our entire nation from untold disaster. To fail to take this simple step means death and destruction for all.

All together demand Gandhiji's release !

Forward to National Unity to win National Government for National Defence and Freedom !