

Personal

ALLAHABAD 2-6-1956.

Revered Doctor Sahib,

V/195

At the time of Holi Sammelan at Pujya Tandonji's place you ordered me to arrange for the Buddha Jayanti or Parinirvan celebrations here at Allahabad. By newspapers you must have known by now that your orders have been carried out to the best of our capacity. The U.P. Government sanctioned Rs. 120/- only for Allahabad city but the cooperation we received from the local officials was simply praise worthy. But for the wrong decision of the P.S.P. to have a black flag demonstration against Hon'ble Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim, who was to address our meeting and his consequent decision to cancell his visit, the celebrations were a grand success. I am sorry I could not prevail upon the P.S.P. not to have any black flag demonstration at all yet I did succeed in their not bycotting our function and joining the same along with other parties. You might have noted from the reports of the proceedings that Sri T.N.Sapru, a P.S.P. man, proposed the vote of thanks at the conclusion of the meeting and it was attended by other P.S.Pers like Shri K.C.Mohiley M.L.A. and Captain S.N.Chaddha etc. Shri S.N.Varma, Advocate, remained with us all along. Ours was an all parties function in the truest sense of the word. I hope you are satisfied with the work done here and the way your orders have been carried out by us.

For me personally the occasion was a matter for pride and great satisfaction. This was the idea behind the Indo-Jap friendship Association affair. I did not want the Government to take up this work themselves but to get it done through unofficial agencies, like ours on an All India basis as I feared repurcussion. And my fears have proved to be quite correct. I hope you must have read Syed Badrudduja's recent speech in which he is reported to have said that "India Government's secular policy was simply a sham show" and "questioned Mr.Nehru's policy regarding the celebrations of the Buddha Jayanti only, while ignoring the commemoration of the birth of prophets of other religious practised in India" (Leader dt.28/5/56)

On the other hand the R.S.S. paper the organiser in its front page article entitled "New Delhi's Buddhism" says:- "We trust the Government will increasingly associate itself with the commemoration of Ram & Krishna, Shankara and Mahavira, Mira and Nanak etc." All this criticisms have been easily avoided by helping us indirectly and keeping themselves away officially. But all said and done I am happy, indeed very happy that my objective is some how or other being achieved and that too in such a short time. The "Organisor" further says in its article that "Some people specially the West think that we are playing up Buddha with the idea of forging a Buddhist Bloc of nations." I do not ~~know~~ know whether the West really thinks that way or not but this is exactly what we should do. This alone can be our third bloc.

Last year when Mr.K.Murakami came here to attend our Indo-Japanese Friendship Association's inaugural function he told the press representatives that "Just



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as Jerusalem attracted the Christians all over the world, so did the Japanese aspire to come to India on account of her association with the birth of Lord Buddha in this country.

Mr. Murakami approved of the suggestion of holding an international mela every year, annually at Kushinagar, the birth place of Lord Buddha to enable the people of the Far Eastern countries, who mostly profess Buddhist religion to meet and exchange religious ideas and also pay their homage to the great prophet of peace.

Answering to a question whether he subscribed to the view that Buddhism was one of the different forms through which Hinduism finds expression, Mr. Murakami replied in the affirmative." (Patrika dated 15/4/55).

It was Babujee (Malaviya) who actually conceived of the idea when Allama Iqbal began to preach pan-Islamism and threaten us with the idea of forming a solid muslim bloc against us. Babuji with the help of learned Pandits searched out a very old ~~Shuk~~ Shloka from some Purana and declared Buddhists to be Hindus. I recited the same Shloka at the beginning of our function too. Here it is:

यं शेवाः समुपासते शिव इति, ब्रूतेति वेदान्तिनो ।

बौद्धाः बुद्ध इति प्रमाणपटवः, कर्तेति नैयायिकाः ॥

अहं नू नित्यथ जैन शासनरताः, कर्मति मीमांसकाः ।

सो यं वो विदधातु वां क्षित फलं, त्रैलोक्य नाथो हरिः ॥

Who is called and worshipped as Shiva by Shaivaites, Brahma by Vedantists, Buddha by the Buddhists, ~~Doer~~ Doer by logicians, Arhat by jains and Action by Mimansakas, May that Almighty Hari, the Lord of the three universe grant us our desired object.

With best regards,

I am  
Very Sincerely Yours,

Hon. Dr. K. N. Katju,  
Minister for Defence,  
Indian Republic,  
NEW DELHI.