

**NATIONAL CONVENTION
FOR THE
LIBERATION OF GOA, DAMAN AND
DIU AND AGAINST PORTUGUESE
COLONIALISM AND FASCISM**

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE FOR GOA

1961

LUCIO LARA

National Convention
for the
Liberation of Goa, Daman & Diu
and against
Portuguese Colonialism & Fascism

National Campaign Committee for Goa
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**REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL
CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE FOR GOA
December 1960—March 1961**

DELEGATION TO DELHI

The National Campaign Committee for Goa formed at the 3rd National Conference for Afro-Asian Solidarity held in Bombay from December 2 to 4, 1960, started its activity with the visit of a 15-member Goan delegation to Delhi the same month.

The delegation which was led by Rev. Father Dr. H. O. Mascarenhas, was composed of Shri V. N. Lawande, Shri Cajetan Lobo, Shri Lambert Mascarenhas, Shri George Vaz, Shri Diwakar Kakodkar, Shri Louis Mendes, Smt. Irene Heredia, Smt. Berta M. Braganza, Dr. R. B. Panthaky, Dr. E. D'souza, Shri Narayan Desai, Commander A. Pereira, Dr. P. D. Gaitonde and Shri E. George.

The delegation, during the eight days it spent in Delhi, had the privilege of meeting the Vice-President, the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister and the late Home Minister Shri Gobind Ballabh Pant. It also met leaders of the major political parties.

Among those with whom the delegation discussed the Goa problem in detail and to whom it explained the aims of the National Campaign Committee for Goa were Shri N. Sanjeeva Reddy, the President of the Indian National Congress; members of the Congress Parliamentary Party headed by its General Secretaries Shri Ram Subhag Singh and Shri Keshava; members of the Central Executive Committee and of the Parliamentary

wing of the Communist Party, headed by Shri Ajoy Ghosh, General Secretary, Shri S. A. Dange and Shri Bhupesh Gupta; Shri Asoka Mehta and Shri N. G. Goray, Chairman and General Secretary of the Praja Socialist Party; members of the Independent Group in the Lok Sabha, led by Shri Indulal Yajnik.

The appeal of the delegation for support to the National Campaign Committee for Goa met with encouraging response both from the members of the Government interviewed by it as well as from the leaders of the parties and parliamentarians. Warm and unanimous was the support extended for the cause of the liberation of Goa, Daman and Diu from all quarters.

The measure of sympathy and cooperation extended to the campaign of the National Committee may well be gauged by the tone of the Prime Minister's statement in the Rajya Sabha on December 20-21 in which he warned that India's patience with Portugal's intransigence was reaching its limit; that the integration of Dadra and Nagar Haveli would be expedited; by the manner in which a number of members of different parties spoke of the Goa problem in that session indicating the urgency of finding a solution for it and demanding effective steps towards that end; and finally, by the renewed interest shown by the Delhi press in the Goa issue after the Press Conference held by the delegation.

During the delegation's presence in Delhi, the Committee was further enlarged with the cooption of new members and a plan of activity was drawn up for the following three months from January to March. That programme of immediate activity consisted mainly of campaign tours in different states, sending of a delegation to the Bhavnagar Session of the Indian National

Congress and the decision to hold a Goa Freedom Convention at the end of March in Delhi on an all-India scale.

DELEGATION TO BHAVNAGAR

A five-member delegation led by Rev. Father Dr. H. O. Mascarenhas was, at the invitation of the Congress President, sent to Bhavnagar to attend the 66th session of Indian National Congress.

The delegation was received by the General Secretary of the A.-I.C.C., Shri Sadiq Ali, and roused great interest and enthusiasm in Sardarnagar. The delegation presented a memorandum to the Congress President on behalf of the National Campaign Committee for Goa.

While at Sardarnagar, the delegation had the occasion to meet the members of several Pradesh Congress Committees who promised support and cooperation to the work of the National Campaign Committee for Goa.

The resolution passed at the session on Goa was the occasion for enthusing speeches by leading Congressmen like Shri Y. B. Chavan, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, who said that mere legalistic quibblings would not solve the problem, by Shri R. Venkataraman, Minister for Industries of Madras State, Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, who moved an amendment specifying that the period of 6 months or a year should be fixed for the liberation of the Portuguese pockets in India, and many other speakers who showed impatience over the failure to end colonial domination of Indian soil.

AFRO-ASIAN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Also in January, the First Conference of Afro-Asian Women's Solidarity invited a Goan delegate to

participate in the Conference. Accordingly Smt. Berta M. Braganza, Editor of 'Free Goa,' joined the Indian delegation to Cairo, led by Smt. Rameshwari Nehru.

The presence of a Goan delegate evoked great interest in the Goan struggle for freedom. Almost every delegation was keen to know about Goa and the Goan people's fight for liberation from colonial domination. The Goan delegate was given the special privilege of addressing the Plenary Session and her speech was listened to with rapt attention. The Conference passed a brief but special resolution on Goa and fairly extensive reference was made to the problem of the Portuguese colonies and the conditions existing there in the report of the Committee for National Independence and Peace. The Goan delegate also appeared on the Cairo television.

While in Cairo, the Goan delegate together with the other Indian delegates was invited by the Soviet Women's Committee to the Soviet Union. Both in Moscow and Leningrad, the Goa problem roused keen interest and the Goan delegate had the opportunity of informing people, in factories and schools, and in meetings with smaller groups, about the living conditions not only of the peoples of the Portuguese colonies but of Portugal itself.

AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY COUNCIL

A special message of greetings was sent by the National Campaign Committee for Goa and a memorandum on Portuguese colonies by the Goan Political Convention to the Extraordinary Session of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Council which met in Cairo in January.

The message and literature on Portuguese colonies were distributed to the delegates by Shri Romesh Chan-

dra, Secretary of the National Campaign Committee for Goa, who attended the session as an Indian delegate.

A resolution on Portuguese colonialism and facism was passed at the Session.

TOURS OF STATES

In February delegates went to Rajasthan, Punjab, West Bengal, Andhra and Madras. Everywhere they had a rousing welcome and enthusiastic support.

In Rajasthan, the National Campaign Committee's delegation visited Jodhpur, Jaipur, Beawar and Alwar.

The tour was inaugurated by Smt. Aruna Asaf Ali, Chairman of the Campaign Committee, at Jodhpur.

In this city, the delegation met the local Congress leaders and also Shri Mathura Das Mathur, who is President of the Rajasthan State Congress Committee and President of the Rajasthan Committee of the Afro-Asian Solidarity movement, besides leaders and workers of other political parties and trade unions.

A reception was held in honour of the delegation by the President and Councillors of the Jodhpur Municipality. The Goa movement fund was launched by Smt. Aruna Asaf Ali at the reception and a donation of Rs. 501 was made to the fund by Shri Mathur on behalf of the Afro-Asian Solidarity movement of Rajasthan.

A public meeting was held and presided over by Shri Harish Joshi, President of the Jodhpur District Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee. Smt. Aruna Asaf Ali and the two Goan delegates, Shri Cajetan Lobo and Shri Diwakar Kakodkar, addressed the meeting.

The delegation also addressed meetings of the students of Jaswant College of Science and Law and of Shri Maharaj Kumar College of Arts and Commerce.

At various functions held in its honour, the delegation met all sections of Jodhpur citizens.

In Beawar, well over 100 persons met the delegation on its arrival at the station. The delegation was received by the President of the Jodhpur Municipality, Shri Chimanlal Lodha and the well-known revolutionary Swami Kumaranand. Also present were Shri Premlal Jain, President of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee of Beawar, Shri Keshimal, Secretary of the Textile Labour Federation, Shri Sant Singh, Secretary of Beawar Congress Committee and other prominent citizens.

A public reception was held in honour of the delegation by the Beawar Municipality at the Municipal Hall.

The delegation addressed a public meeting at the Municipal Hall presided over by Shri Premlal Jain and a meeting of the leaders at the Shanti Jain School.

In Jaipur, apart from meetings and receptions, the delegation met the Governor of Rajasthan, who gave a special message of support.

The Goan delegates stopped at Alwar for a day and were accorded a very enthusiastic welcome. The delegates were received by Shri Indra Lal Mittal, President of the District Congress Committee and the Alwar Municipality and other prominent citizens of Alwar.

The delegates addressed a large meeting of the students of the Raj Rishi College, and the Alwar Municipality held a reception in their honour and presented a civic address.

PUNJAB

Shri Diwakar Kakodkar toured the Punjab. He visited Ludhiana, Khanna, Isru, Dhariwal, Amritsar, Jullundur, Nangal and Sonapat.

He was received at Ludhiana by prominent workers of the Trade Union Council and a reception was held, presided over by the P.S.P. leader Shri Devikanand Khar.

Another reception and public meeting was held at Khanna.

Great enthusiasm prevailed at Isru, the native place of Karnail Singh, who was shot dead on the Goa border on August 15, 1955 during the Goa Satyagraha. Here the Goan delegate laid wreaths on the monument of the martyr and addressed a meeting organised by Kisans and presided over by the mother of Karnail Singh. Thousands came from the surrounding villages to participate in the meeting. The speakers expressed their full support and solidarity with the cause of Goa's liberation and offered to mobilise 500 volunteers.

Another public meeting was later organised in Ludhiana by the Goa Aid Committee and was attended by all parties and leading citizens of Ludhiana.

In Dhariwal, due to section 144 being in force because of the linguistic agitation, only a small meeting could be held in the local Union office in which representatives of the different political parties participated. The speakers promised all support to the Goan movement and resolved to form Goa Aid Committees.

In Amritsar, a reception was held on the Municipal grounds presided over by the President of the Textile Mazdoor Ekta Union, where speakers of differ-

ent parties unanimously demanded the immediate end of the Portuguese fascist regime in Goa.

In Jullundur, an all-party reception was organised for the Goan delegate on his arrival at the railway station. The Reception Committee organised for the purpose included not only leaders of the political parties and the Afro-Asian Solidarity movement, but also representatives of various unions, of the press and other prominent citizens.

At another meeting, the Jullundur Textile workers pledged to contribute one day's earnings to the National Campaign Committee for Goa.

The same enthusiasm prevailed also at Nangal and Sonapat. At Sonapat, the President of the Goa Aid Committee presented the Goan delegate with Rs. 101 on behalf of Sonapat citizens.

WEST BENGAL

The tour of West Bengal was undertaken by Shri Cajetan Lobo, a Joint Secretary of the National Campaign Committee for Goa.

He visited Calcutta and Kanchrapara. At Kanchrapara, he was welcomed by members of the local municipality, various political parties, trade unions and other citizens of the town. A reception was held in the Town Hall and a civic address was presented to Shri Lobo. Later a public meeting was held with the President of the Municipality in the Chair. The meeting passed a resolution demanding effective steps to end colonial domination in India and a copy of it was sent to the Prime Minister.

In Calcutta, besides a public meeting, the Goan

delegate was also invited, to a meeting of students of the Calcutta and Jadhavpur Universities.

He also addressed small meetings of prominent Congress leaders at Congress Bhavan and A.-I.T.U.C. leaders at the Union office.

The Goan delegate met most of the prominent party and student leaders and acquainted them with the Goa problem. At all meetings he called for the formation of a West Bengal Goa Committee for mobilising public opinion and collecting funds for the Goa movement. Leaders of all parties promised to form such committees and also to hold a Goa Freedom Convention in Calcutta in the near future.

The Goan delegate's press conference was well-attended and received good publicity in the English as well as Bengali press.

ANDHRA

Shri George Vaz, Joint Secretary of the National Campaign Committee for Goa, toured the Andhra and Madras States.

In both States the Goan delegate met with great enthusiasm from all parties. Meetings and processions were organised on an all-party basis and speakers in a single voice demanded the liberation of Goa and promised all support to the National Campaign Committee for Goa.

At a crowded meeting in the town of Cuddapah in Andhra Pradesh, presided over by Shri N. Ranga Reddy, a resolution was passed demanding the immediate and fullest attention of the Government and people of India to the problem of ending colonial rule in Goa, Daman and Diu.

A meeting of over 5,000 people was held in Prodattur, a town in Andhra, and nearly 25 organisations offered flowers to the Goan delegate. The meeting passed a resolution condemning imperialism and colonialism and demanding the early liberation of the Portuguese pockets in India.

Goa Committees to support the National Campaign Committee for Goa and work for the liquidation of colonialism in India were formed in Anantapur and Cuddapah.

MADRAS

In Madras Shri George Vaz addressed a representative gathering of English, Telugu and Tamil paper representations. He also met important political leaders and dock workers.

SOLIDARITY WITH PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATS

At the time of the world-stirring 'Santa Maria' episode, Smt. Aruna Asaf Ali, the Chairman of the National Campaign Committee for Goa, issued a statement to the press acclaiming the heroic feat of Capt. Galvao and the new upsurge against Portuguese fascism and colonialism both in Portugal and in Portuguese colonies, and decided to communicate with General Delgado and Capt. Galvao and also representatives of the International Junta of Portuguese and Spanish Liberals led by Gen. Delgado and other Portuguese Democrats in exile in Europe and South America, as well as the leaders of the anti-colonial movements in Portuguese colonies with a view to organising jointly a Conference against Portuguese colonialism and fascism to be held at an early date at a suitable place.

Letters of congratulations and solidarity were also addressed by the Chairman of the National Campaign Committee for Goa to General Delgado and Capt. Galvao.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

At the same time, letters of invitation for the National Convention in Delhi were sent to representatives of popular organisations in several countries of the world.

On March 10, a meeting was held in Bombay at Green's Hotel addressed by Smt. Aruna Asaf Ali and by representatives of the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia who were in Bombay on that date. The meeting was also addressed by Rev. Dr. H. O. Mascarenhas and Prof. A. Soares.

Smt. Aruna Asaf Ali appealed to those attending the meeting to come in large numbers to attend the Goa Freedom Convention. She explained at length that Portuguese colonialism was doomed like all other colonialisms and its end must be hastened by presenting a united front of all anti-colonial and anti-fascist forces fighting the Salazar regime.

The foreign delegates vehemently condemned colonialism and extended their full support to the Goa movement.

REPORT

NATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE LIBERATION OF GOA, DAMAN AND DIU AND AGAINST PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM AND FASCISM

The National Campaign Committee for Goa convened the National Convention for the Liberation of Goa, Daman and Diu and against Portuguese Colonialism and Fascism at the Constitution Club, New Delhi, on March 25 and 26, 1961.

The Convention was inaugurated by Shri Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, and was presided over by the Rev. Dr. H. O. Mascarenhas, President of the Goan Political Convention.

It was addressed by Prof. Yoshitaro Hirano of Japan, Dr. Valerio Regis Konder of Brazil, General Enrique Lister of Spain, Mr. H. Roberts, the well-known educationist of the United States and Mr. Sirodige Nuritdinov of the U.S.S.R.

Pandit Sundarlal, Dr. A. V. Baliga, Mr. Nandenkar of Dhulia, Smt. Aruna Asaf Ali and others spoke supporting the demand for the early liberation of Goa, Daman and Diu.

The audience were entertained with Konkani patriotic songs by a Goan cultural group led by Shri and Smt. Raymond Dantas.

The open session held on the 25th was followed

by the Delegates Session on the 26th March (Sunday) at which over 50 Goan delegates who had come from Bombay, Belgaum and Nagar Haveli participated. The whole question of Portuguese colonialism and fascism was discussed and a call was issued to intensify efforts to make 1961 the year of freedom for Goa, Daman and Diu.

It was also resolved to convene at an early date at a suitable place an International Conference of all anti-fascist and anti-colonial forces represented in Portugal, and the Portuguese colonies of Angola, Mozambique, Goa and other Portuguese colonies. It was decided that such a conference was imperative to unite all the anti-Salazar forces in Portugal and those in exile in Brazil and the anti-colonial forces in Africa and India, and thus hasten the downfall of the fascist dictatorship in Portugal and bring about the collapse of colonialism throughout the world in 1961.

Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Defence Minister Shri V. K. Krishna Menon sent special messages for the success of the Convention. A message was also received from Mr. D. N. Pritt, Q.C., who was unable to attend the meeting.

A number of resolutions were adopted besides the main political resolution which dealt with the freedom of Goa. Resolutions were passed on Portuguese Colonialism, on slave conditions in Portuguese mines in Goa, on political prisoners still in Goa jails and the removal of economic restrictions and for the early integration of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

Earlier a report of the activities of the National Campaign Committee for Goa was submitted by Shri

George Vaz, Secretary of the Committee. Smt. Aruna Asaf Ali, Chairman of the National Campaign Committee, concluded the two-day session with an appeal for intensive work to implement the resolutions adopted by the Convention so that 1961 could in effect make the freedom of Goa a reality.

POLITICAL RESOLUTION

The Portuguese colonial domination which has been exercised in the name of a "civilising mission" on the people of Goa, Daman and Diu has already lasted for 450 years.

Though the claim of the Portuguese colonialists has been termed "civilising mission" it is known that what brought them to the East was nothing more than the ambition to monopolise the rich Eastern trade. All that, however, has resulted from this so-called "civilising mission" is the most barbaric oppression of the people of these occupied territories. In this long period all manners of atrocities have been perpetrated in order to stabilise the imposed and unwanted colonial domination. Custom, religion, language, tradition, everything has been sought to be destroyed in order to cut off the Goan people from the rest of the Indian people.

Those efforts, however, have been in vain. The people of the Portuguese-occupied territories in India have resisted the colonial barbarity throughout the four and a half centuries of the crushing regime. Numerous armed revolts have taken place in the territories to push the Portuguese out of Goa in the past and the Goan people have remained faithful to the Indian language, customs and traditions.

This Convention repudiates the Portuguese claim that Goa, Daman and Diu are integral parts of Portugal. The people of these occupied territories are one with the rest of the millions of India and it is India's right and duty to liberate her still enslaved people.

The Goan and the non-Goan Indian people affirmed this national unity in a categorical manner with the formation of the Goa Congress Committee affiliated to the Indian National Congress way back in 1928, thereby linking the problem of the ending of Portuguese colonialism in India with the great Indian struggle for independence. The heroic civil liberties movement launched in 1946 in Goa with the significant slogan of "Jai Hind!" marked yet a further stage in Goa's struggle for freedom.

This movement developed into a mass upsurge of the entire Indian people in 1954 and 1955 united and determined to free Goa and complete the independence of India which resulted in the brutal massacre of the peaceful and unarmed patriots by the Portuguese.

In the present phase of the struggle against Portuguese colonialism in India, the Convention welcomes the upsurge for freedom in other Portuguese colonies like Angola, Mozambique and others and also the determination of the democratic forces in Portugal to overthrow the dictatorial fascist regime prevailing in Portugal itself.

This Convention welcomes the decision of the U.N. Trusteeship Council to brush aside as untenable the plea of Portugal that its overseas possessions are an integral part of Portugal and not colonies and to demand that Portugal supply the necessary information about these colonies. This Convention also welcome the re-

cent decision of the United Nations to end colonialism wherever it exists. This Convention further welcomes the recent statement made on the question of Goa by representatives of certain great powers like the U.S.A. which till now had been supporting Portugal. The Convention expresses the hope that such anti-colonial sentiments expressed openly by these powers will lead to more positive action on the part of these powers in favour of Goa's freedom.

In the context of changes in the balance of world opinion on colonialism in general and in particular the success of various liberation movements in Africa this is the opportune moment for intensifying the efforts to complete India's independence.

This Convention calls upon the Government of India to take serious note of the indignity that the continuation of a colonial and fascist regime represents to the Indian nation and to take all necessary and effective steps to end the last vestiges of foreign domination on Indian soil before the end of 1961.

This Convention declares that the Goa problem is a national problem and appeals to all political parties and organisations and the entire Indian people to support the efforts of the National Campaign Committee for Goa for the liberation of Goa, Daman and Diu by the end of 1961.

RESOLUTION ON PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM

Portuguese colonialism is the weakest but at the same time appears to be the most unyielding of all existing colonialisms.

A small country at one tip of Europe with neither advanced industry nor a strong army and navy could

not have clung so tenaciously to its colonial possessions but for the support both direct and indirect given by some of the stronger colonial powers.

Admiral Americo Thomas on assuming the Presidency of Portugal in 1958 underlined this reality when he said, "The West owes to the Portuguese their centuries old and lasting influence in various parts of the world and also their present conscious resistance to the generally consented relinquishments". But this assurance to fight to the last ditch of the battle for world colonialism, this quixotic pose is based on complete ignorance of the forces developing all over the world and not the least in Portugal itself.

The rights and liberties of the people of Portugal have been suppressed since the military putsch of 1926. The Salazar dictatorship perfected the fascist machine. The P.I.D.E. or the International Police for the Defence of the State suppressed every liberal sentiment. Only the ruling fascist party, the Uniao Nacional, is recognised. Leading intellectuals like Professor Ruy Luis Gomes, the great mathematician, the Engineer Mrs. Virginia Moura, the architect Lobao Vital, the poet Agostinho Neto and hundreds of others were sentenced to savage terms of imprisonment. Salazar thought he could stem the tide with a rigged up election of President. But the "Santa Maria" saga has demonstrated that he is sitting on a volcano. The anti-Salazar forces are gathering inside Portugal.

The brutal firing on the Satyagrahis near the Goa border and the savage atrocities committed by the Portuguese colonialists in Angola have raised the wrath of the people of the world.

The people of Goa, Daman and Diu, of Angola,

Mozambique and Guinea are all rising to regain their freedom and liberty.

The Salazar regime with the help of other colonialists escaped once more its duty to report on the conditions in their colonies to the United Nations on the spurious plea that Portugal had no colonies but only "overseas provinces" of Portugal.

But the conscience of the world will give the fascists no rest. The United Nations has now repudiated this feeble claim. The Trusteeship Council has demanded that Portugal should submit reports on the conditions in its colonies.

It is urgently necessary, therefore, to carry all these moves forward. It is imperative that all the anti-Salazar forces in Portugal and those in exile in Brazil and the anti-colonial forces in Africa and India should unite. This Convention, therefore, calls for an International Conference to be convened some time this year. It will be a step in the direction of unifying and consolidating the anti-Salazar forces to achieve rapidly the freedom of the colonies under the Salazar yoke and also hasten the downfall of the fascist dictatorship in Portugal and bring about the collapse of colonialism throughout the world in 1961.

SLAVE CONDITIONS IN GOA MINES

Intensive mining is being carried on in recent years in the Portuguese colony of Goa which brings huge profits by way of foreign currency to the Portuguese Government. The manganese and iron ore from Goa which is of a higher grade is being mostly exported to West Germany, Japan and Italy.

The exploitation of Goan mines is carried on by local mining interests who, in most cases, have Indian

partners investing Indian capital in this industry in Goa, surreptitiously in defiance of the Government of India's policy.

Over 50,000 labour is involved in this industry of which more than 7,000 are Indian nationals recruited by agents or tendils in Rajasthan, U.P., Andhra and Bihar and other parts of India. This labour is enticed to work in Goa by false promises of attractive conditions in the mines. Labour in Goa has no trade union rights under the fascist rule existing in this colony and no compensation is paid out to the mining labourers in cases of accident and death which is a common occurrence. Primitive conditions exist in the mining industry with no medical aid, insurance or sick leave.

The Indian labour employed in Goa is unfamiliar with the language and the local conditions and is not allowed to return to India. Severe punishment is meted out by the Portuguese police who search out the labourers who make an attempt to return to India.

Payments are made in Portuguese escudos and remittances are disallowed to the dependents in India. The Indian labourers once decoyed by the recruiting agents into Goa become virtual slaves of the employers and have no way of escaping from the brutal conditions under which they are forced to work.

These recruiting agents, who have easy access into India and Goa cheat the labourers by collecting the savings of this recruited labour with false promises of remitting these amounts to their families in India.

This Convention draws the attention of the people and Government of India to the slave conditions of labour as obtaining in the Goan mining industry. This

Convention further urges the Government of India to take every measure to stop Indian labour being smuggled into Goa and demands that severe action be taken against all recruiting agents who operate in India on behalf of the Goan mining industry.

ON POLITICAL PRISONERS

This Convention greets Dr. Vinayak Mayenkar on his return from Angola after 14 years of exile.

This Convention takes serious note of the constant repressive policy of the Portuguese fascist government and the continued detention of the political prisoners in conditions which are in absolute contravention of all civilised principles.

There is a great urgency to create a strong world opinion by effective denunciation of the inhuman conditions to which the freedom fighters are subjected.

The Convention specially draws attention to the recent re-arrest of the deported patriot, Mr. Nilkant Karapurkar in Sa-de-Bandeira, in Angola, for imparting education to African children, who have no access to schools. Shri Karapurkar has been kept in a dingy cell without proper food and medical assistance.

This Convention draws the attention of the world to the fate of the Goan freedom fighters who are still in exile though amnestied, namely Shri Pandurang Shirodkar, Shri Guilherme de Souza-Ticlo, Shri Nilkant Karapurkar, Shri Mukund Kamat, Shri Narain Naik and Shri Jayant Kunde in Angola and Shri Laxmikant Bembre in Lisbon. The refusal of the Portuguese Government to send them back to Goa is in contradiction of the amnesty law which demands the immediate release and repatriation of amnestied prisoners.

This Convention also draws the attention of the world and specially of India to the detention in exile in Lisbon of two Indian citizens, Dattatraya Deshpande and Mohan Ranade under most inhuman conditions.

Deshpande, a perfectly sane man, is detained in a lunatic asylum since 1950 and Ranade in solitary confinement since September last.

This Convention demands an immediate probe by the United Nations into the gross violation of Human Rights and demands that Portugal be forced to respect the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

This Convention further demands the immediate release of all political prisoners and the repatriation of all those exiled from Goa.

RESOLUTION ON THE REMOVAL OF ECONOMIC AND TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND GOA

This Convention welcomes the decision of the Government of India to respond to the wishes of the Goan people which were embodied in the Memorandum of the Goan Political Convention submitted to the Prime Minister of India in February last year on the question of relieving the hardships affecting the people of Goa caused by the economic restrictions.

This Convention strongly condemns the attitude of the Portuguese Government of Goa for not reciprocating the gesture of the Government of India in opening two additional land routes to Goa.

This attitude of the Portuguese Government once again thoroughly exposes its pretensions that it represents the best interests of the Goan people.

ON DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI

This Convention regrets that though the liberation of Dadra and Nagar Haveli which is already a six-year-old accomplished fact, and stands out as the first proud victory of the Indian anti-colonial struggle against Portugal carried on under the leadership of the Goan resisters against Portuguese colonialism, these enclaves, in spite of their consistent and determined demand, have not yet been integrated with the Indian Union.

Considering that not only freedom from colonial domination but re-integration with India is the basic principle of the Goan anti-colonial struggle, it is but in the fitness of things that the people and the Government of India should respect the right and the desire of the people of Dadra and Nagar Haveli to be part of the Indian Union. In this connection, the Convention welcomes the assurance given by the Prime Minister in the Lok Sabha to integrate these territories.

This Convention, therefore, urges the Government of India to delay no further the integration of the liberated territories with the Indian Union, thereby putting an end to the anomalous situation of a stateless people with no formulated Charter of Right.

MESSAGES

FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

Prime Minister's House,
NEW DELHI.

TO GOANS

In this age of a fading colonialism it is surprising to remember that Portugal still maintains her empire in Africa and elsewhere. In India we still have a small part of this colonial possession in Goa, Daman and Diu. It is the duty of all Goans, and indeed of others also, to work for the liberation of these territories. I have no doubt that the time is not far off when freedom will at last come to these long suffering areas. But freedom does not come automatically; it has to be worked for. To those who are engaged in this struggle, I send my good wishes.

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

New Delhi,
March 24, 1961.

FROM SHRI V. K. KRISHNA MENON, DEFENCE MINISTER

Portugal today is the largest, perhaps the oldest, the most backward and the most ruthless colonial empire.

She occupies 13,000 sq. miles in Africa where conditions akin to slavery, forced labour and ruthless exploitation prevail.

In India she holds under suppression Goa and other

areas which she euphemistically calls "Portuguese India". She also holds Macao and Timor in Asia.

There are colonial remnants in the possession of other imperial countries also. Portugal, however, is the only one which has not shown any disposition to dispossess herself of her enslaved territories. She refuses even to admit that they are colonies or will be free one day. Her argument is that they are free now! The colonial people, she would have the world believe, are independent and like other Portuguese citizens, etc. This of course is not an exaggeration, but unvarnished untruth.

Even constitutionally and admitting constitutional professions on their face value only Africans who have adopted Portuguese ways of life are citizens! It is doubtful, very doubtful, if even they have equality in fact! The overwhelming majority of Africans are beyond the pale of citizenship and nearer to slavery than citizenship.

On the plea that the African must work, he is impressed into labour, and the terms of work wage are prescribed and imposed by the Colonial Government. This forced labour has reduced Africans to economic, political and social servitude and dehumanisation.

It is to the credit of these people that despite all this there is revolt which one day, as in the rest of Africa, will overthrow the Empire unless the Empire overthrows itself by the fall of the dictatorship and the acceptance of modern ideas of human rights and anti-colonialism.

We are conscious of Goa. It is so near, under what is, factually, military rule. For us it is India, part of India where the empire still holds and, therefore, unfinished business.

It is a challenge to us that so near free and democratic India there should endure the grim evidence of empire at its worst.

We ourselves are at fault. We have not brought to bear the immense potential of world opinion, seriously and persistently, on this last stubborn outpost of oppression. Nor have we realised the impact of solidarity.

The strength of the impact of public opinion lies in its full scale application in this case, i.e., in respect of the whole Portuguese empire in Africa and Asia and the recognition of the plight of Goa and, therefore, India in this regard, in essence, is a common plight and, therefore, calls for unified and common action.

We may not sit back and say that Goa will be liberated in Africa, and leave it to the Africans! But the recognition of the oneness of the cause of Goa and the rest of the Portuguese empire will spell the death-knell of the empire.

Africa will rise like a giant from her slumber of millenia. With Goa so close at hand to remind us we have to address ourselves, by methods which are in keeping with our national life and policy, to stir world opinion. Neither South Africa, nor Belgium, nor Portugal can for long stand that onslaught.

The United Nations by an overwhelming majority rejected the contention that Portuguese colonies are not colonies and demanded that Portugal submit information and admit, to the full, the responsibility of colonialism. We have thus made a beginning on the world front against the one country which is the last, but stubborn champion of imperialism and colonial oppression.

Portugal built her empire on slavery and it endures by slavery at home and abroad. Portugal herself remains enslaved. Africa and Asia are no longer merely restless, they are in revolt. The world is their witness and ultimately their strength. The United Nations this last year declared, not any particular item of colonial rule, but the whole of it fit only to be ended.

The agitation for Goa can become one of the great liberating movements of our time, draw the world closer, liberate Goa, Africa and Portugal herself.

Further we must accept the oneness of the struggle against colonialism, unite and release the great power of the unity of the cause of human liberty and world public opinion.

I feel sure your Convention will make an effective contribution to this if the essentials of the issue are kept up.

V. K. KRISHNA MENON

New Delhi
March 23, 1961.

FROM MR. D. N. PRITT, Q.C.

I am very sorry indeed to be unable to take part in the great meeting in support of the just demand of the Goan people for their release from colonial rule.

I have long been active in the general struggle to free all colonial peoples from foreign rule, and I have also been able to play some part in that struggle in the particularly hard and urgent case of Goa; and thus it is from the bottom of my heart that I send you my warm

wishes for a very successful meeting, and above all for the early achievement of your just and vital demand that Goa and the Goan people be freed from foreign rule, and given their independent and rightful place among the peoples of the Union of India.

GOAN PARTICIPANTS IN THE NATIONAL CONVENTION FOR GOA

The following were some of the Goan participants in the National Convention:

The Rev. Dr. H. O. Mascarenhas, President of the Goan Political Convention, Dr. Vinayak Mayenkar who was released only last month from the Portuguese penal settlement of Angola after an exile of ten years and several of the Goan political prisoners released from the Aguada Fortress, viz., Shri Shyam Kunde, K. D. Naik, J. L. Aranjó, Franklin Moraes, Bhadurao Velip, Prabarkar Haldankar, Ivor Gomes, A. B. Coelho, G. Manjrekarand and others; besides Mrs. B. M. Braganza, Editor of "Free Goa" Mrs. Irene Heredia of the Goan Women's Convention, Shri J. M. D'Souza of the Goan National Union, Shri Divakar Kakodkar and Xavier Pereira of the Goan People's Party, Shri J. M. Pinto and Shri Cajetan Lobo of the Goa Liberation Council, Shri Shamrao Lad of the Azad Gomantak Dal, Mrs. Kumud Desai, President of the Bombay Youth Association, Dr. R. B. Panthaky, Miss Malu Kamath, Baburao Rana and A. Shah of Nagar Haveli, Shri Lambert Mascarenhas, Editor, "Goan Tribune", Shri C. Kakodkar of the Dock and Port Workers Union. Mr. Raymond Dantas and Mrs. M. Dantas, Dr. Alaveia of Dui and Shri George Vaz of Goan Political Party.

The Goan Clubs in Bombay were represented by Shri S. X. Mendes, Shri Becket Dias, Shri A. Souza Roy and Shri Lewis Mendes. Others who actively participated were Dr. Beatrice Braganza, Shri Narayan Desai,

Dr. Mrs. Laura D'Souza of the Goa Ashram, Shri Valois Rodrigues, Shri Drustron Rodrigues and others.

A number of delegates from Rajasthan, Punjab, Andhra and U.P. participated in the discussions.

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