

DALIT VOICE

[The Voice of the Persecuted Minorities]

Adviser : Dr. Mulk Raj Anand

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No. 9

WHO IS BLUFFING: R.S.S. OR THE GOVT. ?

A most closely-guarded secret of the Govt. of India has come to light, surprisingly through a fantastic feat of investigative journalism resorted to by the RSS official mouth-piece, *Organiser*. And the subject matter of this scoop of the decade is the one dearest to the RSS heart, namely the "mass conversion" of Untouchables to Islam in Tamil Nadu which has been hitting headlines in the "national press" for one year now. The *Organiser* (Jan. 10, 1982) front-paged this sensational story under a banner headline, "Official Document Reveals Saudi Hand in Mass Conversions." Since the *Organiser* revelation of a hitherto unpublished secret document of the Govt. of India is of utmost importance to dalits, persecuted minorities & our friends in India and abroad, we thought it necessary to reproduce the entire text (see page 6) to help readers draw their own conclusion and act upon it. However, we would like to make it clear that we don't want to doubt the genuineness of the *Organiser* report. Until it is contradicted or corrected by the Govt. of India & the *Organiser* itself made to publish the same, we will have to take it as correct. And till the time of writing this the *Organiser* disclosure of this "secret document" of the Union Home Ministry stands unchallenged. The *Organiser* writeup says that it is based on a "confidential report" submitted to the Govt. of India by its special cell on "conversions of Harijans in India". And please note that the entire text is a direct quotation from this "confidential report" which gives the shocking news that the Govt. of India has discovered an international plot to destroy India and the countries involved are the USA, Saudi Arabia and some other Muslim countries. We quote from the "report": It is an international conspiracy against India. USA has warned Saudi Arabia and other Muslim countries that a strong and united India will be a greater danger to them than Israel. Therefore they should try to disintegrate India and convert the Harijans and other castes of Hindus to Islam to make India a Muslim majority country. Saudi Arabia has been particularly asked to work in this direction". The Govt. of India report as quoted by the *Organiser* then names certain international Muslim organisations for having financed the conversions. And three of them (which actually procured funds from foreign agencies are based in India) are described as "Muslim communal parties interested in conversions". Of these Jamat-e-Islami is described as the "most fanatic" and a very secretive organisation & interested in subversive & communal activities. Indeed grave charges! The confidential report raises several issues. How could such an important classified information leak out only in one journal? That too the official organ of the RSS? Why no other daily paper, which has ever so many correspondents specialising in unearthing govt. secrets, have not been able to get this re-

port? If they had failed to get this startling scoop, why did they not at least reproduce or quote this report in their columns? Why there is not even an editorial comment or discussion in any "national" daily on this disclosure of Arabs financing conversions of Untouchables to Islam—a subject on which this very "national press" must have by now printed millions of words? What action has been taken against Home Ministry officials & the police who were responsible for leaking this report? Should not the govt. come forward with an explanation? Why no leader, not even RSS leaders, issued any statement based on the *Organiser* disclosure, demanding action on the countries and organisations trying to 'destroy' India? Why the *Organiser* having leaked out the official document did not publish any follow-up story in its subsequent issues demanding action against these forces? Why there has been a total silence on the part of everybody including the Govt. of India & also the RSS on so serious a "plot" discovered to "destroy" India? What is this mystery? If the Govt. of India chooses to keep mum, *Organiser* atleast should have come out with a follow-up story as it has a duty towards its vast readers. After all *Organiser* is the official organ of a powerful national organisation that commands such great influence. Is it not cowardly, that it is also keeping quiet after disclosing an earth-shaking "plot"? All these doubts come to us and we seek an honest answer if honesty has any value to us. Many serious issues have been raised and grave allegations have made against responsible Muslim organisations. Particularly the Jamaat-e-Islami with which the RSS & its chief Balasaheb Deoras had flirted during the Emergency & later praised it in public while sharing common platform. Which one is true? What he then spoke or what the *Organiser* speaks now? There is yet another but much graver issue: the very credibility of the Govt. of India—if there is

anything like that—is at stake. Did not the then Union Minister of State for Home Makwana state in Parliament that the "Home Ministry has not made any formal inquiry in the matter. Therefore the question of preparing a report or correcting the news item does not arise". Having once stated this right on the floor of Parliament, that the Govt. had not conducted any investigation into the conversion, how could the *Organiser* claim now that it has published the report of the investigation into the conversions? Surprisingly the govt. has not so far reacted to the leakage of its report through the *Organiser*. Silence amounts to consent. Are we then to take that the govt. uttered a lie in Parliament? And this amounts to a serious breach of Parliamentary privilege. Can the Govt. keep the Parliament in darkness on such an important report about the causes of conversions over which the entire country was made to tremble? Did not the speakers at the RSS-sponsored Virat Hindu Sammelan in Delhi say that the mass conversion to Islam was the second greatest disaster that India faced after the partition? If that is the significance of the event ("Earthquake at Meenakshipuram," as we described it), how could the authorities choose to keep quiet when its causes are now discovered and culprits named? Surprisingly, the report directly contradicts the statement made by Makwana in Parliament & the speech that he made outside as Minister and the report submitted by the director of SC/STs of the Union Govt. Arumugham, IAS. The *Hindu*, *Indian Express* & many other "national dailies" and mass-circulated journals like the *Sunday*, *India Today* had also conducted their own investigation and found no evidence of foreign money. Many dalit leaders had also visited Meenakshipuram and interviewed the converts who had unanimously said that there was no money but social reasons were the cause of their becoming Muslims. Can we conclude from

(Cont. on Page 11)

A CHRISTIAN REJOINDER TO MARXIST CRITICISM

(P. A. Augustine, Khagul, Bihar)

The report of the CPM Central Committee meeting held at Calcutta, published in the December 16-31 issue of "Dalit Voice", would have been dismissed as a forgery but for the fact that the fears and complexes of CPM show through the document. The CPM is convinced that an ideological warfare is being fought against it. The party sees enemies everywhere, enemies to the right, enemies to the left, enemies in front and enemies behind.

The party is fighting too many enemies

at the same time. They range from the RSS of the extreme Right, to the Naxalites of the extreme Left. It is obsessed with the fear of infiltration. The latest group to earn its ire are the Christian agencies. On the one hand the CPM accuses the Christian agencies of sowing seeds of separatism and on the other charges them with assuming a Left image. It strikes one as rather humorous that the CPM should be perturbed over the Left image of the Church agencies. Surely the CPM has no monopoly on the Left image. It lost it long ago. Has the CPM abandoned its strategy of making common cause with Leftist elements? Has it lost its nerve to usher in revolution with their cooperation? The report denounces the activities of the Church in Tripura. The reason is not far to seek. The CPM has built up a strong base among the immigrant Bengalis from Bangladesh. It has no hold over tribal affairs in Tripura. The party is out of the picture as far as the tribals of Tripura are concerned. The CPM has identified itself with immigrant Bengalis. The tribals have been reduced to a minority and dispossessed of their homeland. As the Church mostly works among tribals, the CPM feels threatened by its activities. This is the reason why the CPM has declared a war on the Church there. At the height of tension and clashes between the tribals and the immigrant Bengali population in the summer of 1979 the CPM workers subjected Christian institutions to raids and slanders. Standing by the oppressed minority of tribal population is a crime in the eyes of the CPM. With the connivance of the ad-

ministration, which is controlled by the party, the repression against the Christians still continues. The report makes no mention of these facts. The refugee influx certainly has not harmed the interests of the CPM. And as things stand today, it does not suit CPM's interests to espouse the cause of the tribals. It is obvious that the party's primary concern is not liberation of the oppressed or the defence of human rights, but control of men and matters. In political alliance, its relations are governed by its desire to be in the driver's seat. This desire has sometimes landed the party right in the middle of the soup. In its attempt to browbeat its alliance partners in the erstwhile LDF ministry in Kerala, it has suffered severe reverses. The CPM has further displayed this trait in its relations with the Kashtakari Sanghatana of Maharashtra of which the report makes explicit mention. When the party found its influence over the Warlis of Thane district waning, owing to the activities of the Kashtakari Sanghatana, it embarked on a campaign to malign the Sanghatana. Strangely enough, at this stage, the party came to the defence of businessmen and the officialdom who have been oppressing the Warlis. It seemed that suddenly the party discovered identity of interests with these strange partners. The party was not satisfied with this campaign. On the morning of October 18, 1980 an armed mob of CPM party workers and hired men descended on the adivasi villages and indulged in arson and looting. Several people including women and children received severe injuries. The CPM could not have carried out this attack with-

[Contd. on Page 5, col. 2]

WHEN IDEOLOGY REPLACES VIOLENCE: HINDUISM UNMASKED

(Ashok Rudra, noted historian)

*As is well known, it is one of the fundamental tenets of Marxism that the hierarchic structure of society with some classes producing use values and some other classes appropriating a surplus out of it and distributing it among themselves is held together in the ultimate analysis by violence. We advance as a hypothesis that this particular role in Indian history was played not by violence but by ideology. Ideology no doubt plays the role of smoothing over frictions in all societies: the ruling class ideology is meant to thwart, muffle and confuse class struggle in all class societies. In that there is nothing special about India. What is special about India is the stupendous success that was achieved by ideology in India in this role. Violence has of course been not in the least lacking in Indian history. But that is violence as between different claimants to political power all belonging to the same ruling class. We are talking of the absence of violence between the exploiting classes and the exploited classes. We are suggesting that it was never found necessary by the exploiting classes to use violence to make the exploited classes accept their exploitation and oppression. We are suggesting that the result was achieved by the use of 'dharma' which, it may be recalled, literally means "something that holds together". The Sudra was indoctrinated to accept without protest the *Sudra-Dharmā* and the Chandala lived his life according to the canons applicable to his station. Dharma put the highest premium on the acceptance of one's station in life and the existing social order and precluded any idea of rebellion. If Marx talked about the history of mankind being the history of class struggles he had before his mind the history of Europe which is full of instances of slave revolts and serfs fleeing from their lords. Indian history, however, does not provide any evidences of the Untouchables revolting against the upper castes. We are not forgetting the much-cited and little-known*

instance of the 'Kaivarita revolt' of the Pala period in Bengal but surely every one will concede that one may scrape the sources and yet not produce many other instances of the same kind. We may, in this connection, note that the substitution of physical violence by ideology is recognised even by the strong protagonist of Indian feudalism, R. S. Sharma, who writes: 'But where was the need for military service if the people could be persuaded to behave themselves and to acquiesce in the existing order'? It is not only in the relation between the direct producers and the appropriators of surplus that the Brahmanic ideology with its Jati Dharma and the theory of 'Karma' eliminated the need of violence; the same is true of every other social relation of oppression. A glaring example is the way women have been made to accept not just an inferior status but a degradation unparalleled in any other society. The Indian male however never had to invent any such horrible contraptions to ensure his mental peace. The ideal of 'Patibratya', driven deep into the very marrows of the Indian female, made her follow the examples of Sita and Savitri while her husband could indulge himself with any number of wives and concubines and cheerfully mount his funeral pyre after his death. What we are talking of is physical violence, corporal punishment and in extremity, annihilation. It goes without saying that in moral terms the ideology we are talking about is violent to an utmost degree. To the best of our knowledge, this particular role of ideology as a substitute for violence has not received the attention of

historians and social scientists it deserves. As is well known, unlike Christianity and Islam, Brahminism never conquered by annihilating or by forcefully converting people worshipping non-Brahmanic gods. Tribes were not eliminated. They were assimilated. The functional divisions within the tribal society were preserved and given caste denominations. The local gods and goddesses were incorporated into the Hindu pantheon by equations being invented between them and established Hindu gods. The essential point which we are aiming at is the absence of physical violence made possible by an astute manipulation of ideology. The question becomes even more intriguing when one reminds oneself that originality has never been a strong point of Indian Marxists, their Marxism being little more than a collection of undigested and unsynthesised propositions taken from the writings of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and treated as so many immutable laws. The truth is that Indian-feudalism is a product of the Stalinist revision of Marxism. Indian Marxists have with very few exceptions learned their Marxism not directly from Marx but from the bowdlerised versions produced by the hack writers of Stalin's time. The thesis that we are advancing regarding the overwhelming importance of ideology in Indian history has an extremely important implication for practice. It is that the struggle against reactionary elements of the Brahmanic ideology has to constitute a most important part in any struggle for progress in this country. In this particular matter the record of political parties committed to the idea of progress has been extremely poor. The leftist movements in the country have been mostly concerned with economic struggles; they have acquired even political dimensions only as exceptions: (Courtesy: *Economic & Political Weekly* 26-12-81)

(Contd. from Page 3)

out the connivance of the police. In this episode the hypocrisy of the CPM has been exposed in all its nakedness. Once again the party had sacrificed the cause of the oppressed on the altar of political expediency. It is true that the Church has given the tribals a sense of pride in their identity and in their heritage. It has done so by educating them. This service to the tribals redounds to its credit and is consonant with the spirit of the Constitution of India which offers them special protection and guarantees their separate existence. The CPM Central Committee has considered it necessary to caution the party workers and leaders against the tactics of the Church agencies. It even strikes a note of despair when it says: 'It is a pity that our intellectual comrades, the professors, teachers, lawyers are unable to put up a fight and stand paralysed before the offensive on every front'. The CPM's troubles do not end there. Today the party faces the stiffest opposition from the Naxalites on the extreme Left. They accuse the CPM of betraying the cause of revolution. The CPM should know that there is only a thin line of separation between revolution and counter-revolution. It depends on which side you are. What you do is revolution; what the other man does is counter-revolution. India's domesticated brand of Marxism would make a good subject of study. The CPM has come to terms with caste and the bourgeois class. It is common knowledge that casteist and bourgeois elements wield enormous influence on its policies.

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YET ANOTHER R. S. S. BLUFF ON ARAB MONEY FOR CONVERSIONS

[Reproduced below the full text of a front-page report in the RSS official journal *Organiser* of Jan 10, 1982, headlined "Saudi Hand in Conversions".]

(*'Organiser' Intelligence*)

NEW DELHI: "It is an international conspiracy against India. USA has warned Saudi Arabia and other Muslim countries that strong and united India will be a greater danger to them than Israel. Therefore they should try to disintegrate India and convert the Harijans and other castes of Hindus to Islam to make India a Muslim majority country. Saudi Arabia has been particularly asked to work in this direction," says a confidential report submitted to the Government by its special cell on Conversions of Harijans in India. It goes on to say: "There is an organisation in Saudi Arabia called Rabita-al-Alam al-Islami. Its headquarters is at Mecca, Saudi Arabia Govt. apparently claim that it is not a Govt. organisation. But its whole finances, which run into billions, are borne by the Govt. of Saudi Arabia. Rabita-al-Alam al-Islami has been entrusted the job of organising subversive activities and conversion of Harijans and other Hindus in India. Following organisations have also been formed for the same purpose by the Rabita-al-Alam al-Islami:— (i) **World Mosque Conference Hdqrs At Mecca**: Under the aegis of the conference All India Mosque Council has been formed in February 1981 at Hyderabad. The Council gets all the finances from World Mosque Conference which ultimately is received from the Rabita. Main functions of the All India Mosque Council are to give financial aid to build new mosques, to renovate old mosques and to bring unused mosques to use. Each mosque which receives aid from the Council has to run a school for "Deeni Talim". Expenses of the school are also borne by the Council. It has its Hdqs. at

Lucknow. All India Mosque Council works under the instructions of Jammata-e-Islami Hind, which will be commented upon later. (ii) **Motamar-al-Alam al-Islami**: Its Hdqrs. is at Karachi and it has also a branch at Bombay. Its main job is to organise conversion of Harijans to Islam in India. In South it was organised by the Motamar. It is spending lot of money on this operation. It gets final instructions from Rabita-al-Alam al-Islami. (iii) **Consultative Committee**: Consultative Committee of Indian Muslims is in U.S.A. and Canada with its Hdqrs. at Chicago. This sends finances to Indian Muslim parties, particularly Jammata-e-Islami Hind. (iv) **Worlds Deen Bandu Congress**: Its Hdqrs. is at London and a branch at Bombay at 7/1 J. K. Building, H.C. Road, Gandavi, Bombay. Following are the members of Central Working Committee:— President Morarjibhai D. Kataria (Leicester U.S.A.) Working President Jivarajbhai, Ex. M.P. (Karachi, Pakistan). Vice President 1. K.R. Arya (Leicester) 2. Panchanan Pak (Advocate) 3. Mohan Lal, N. Sharma (Barode), 4. Dr. V. B. Lal (W Germany) 5. Dr. R. D. Goradi (USA) 6. Baburao Belose, Ex. Minister (Bombay) 7. Dr. K. D. Mehta (Bombay) 8. Javant Lal, R. Doshi (Bombay) General Secretary and Founder Dhanji Bhai K. Jagadia (Bombay). Organising Secretary Suhas Power (Chicago USA). Treasurer. Dr. Shahi Hakim Alim (Bombay), Morar Bhai K. Solanki (Leicester). U. K. Office 36 Draper Street, Leicester, Leicestershire U. K. "Main function of World Deen Bandhu Congress is to encourage Harijans and other backward classes to embrace Islam. Members of this organisation actively participate in this connection. They get funds from U.S.A. and Rabita-al-alam al-Islami. They keep liaison with Muslim communal parties and spot out areas where conversion to Islam can be successful. They

32 000 CONVERSIONS IN 8 MONTHS : RSS CANARD

"Islam is on the march in India. Some 32,000 have been converted to the religion in the last eight months," says a write up on India in the magazine "ARABIA—The actively participated in conversion to Islam in South India. Muslim Communal Parties in India Interested in Conversion : i) Jamet-e-Islami Hind, Head Office at Delhi. ii) Tablighi Jamat, Hdqrs. at Banglewali Masjid, Nizam-ud-Din, New Delhi. iii) Ahle Hadis Hdqrs at Urdu Bazar, Jama Masjid, Delhi. "Out of them Jarpat-e-Islami is most active and has a solid base in India. It is cadre-based party. Only trusted Muslims can be members of this party. It is a very-secretive organisation. Members of this party keep their activities secret and always work behind the scene. All the above mentioned parties are fundamentalist parties but most fanatic is Jamat-e-Islami. Its main object is to establish "Qamat-e-Deen" (Rule of Allah according to the tents of Quarah) throughout the world. Without converting non-Muslims to Islam this party cannot achieve its objective. Therefore, its primary job is conversion of non-Muslims to Islam. This party is also interested in subversive and communal activities in India. It does not recognise J&K as a part of India. "Rabita-al-Alam-al-Islami of Mecca has made this party responsible for the conversion of Hindus to Islam. This party gets all funds from the Rabita. Its annual budget runs into crores. "Ahle Hadis—It has not much following. It also gets financial aid from the Rabita. "Tablighi Jamaat—This party also gets funds from the Rabita. Touring Jamaats are regularly sent by this party in rural areas to propagate Islam throughout the country". "On November 6, 1981, an IAS officer Krishan Lal (Ministry of Shipping) and G. Naik, Under Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India embraced Islam in Jama Masjid." □

Islamic World Review", recently launched from London ostensibly with Arab money. Some significant observations in this context are reproduced below from the glossy monthly journal : "Conversions to Islam continued steadily during the whole of the post-Mughal period. For example, 230 Indians became Muslims in 1944, and another 1,200 or so were converted in the next 25 years. However, it is only in recent months that the latest conversions have drawn the government's attention because of the number of reports that came in during a short period, encompassing a total of 32,000 in less than eight months. "The continued persecution has not broken Islam's spirit nor has it reduced its potential to act as a revolutionary social force. The Muslims of India are more committed to Islamic ideology, better politically organised and exhibit greater unity today than at any time since independence. It is this newfound sense of destiny which has enabled them to welcome the Harijans into Islam throughout India and to assert their right to formulate a national, social and political strategy which is distinct and uniquely Islamic. "The challenge before Islam in India is whether it can provide enough missionaries to take full advantage of the favourable conditions at present for further conversions. Even more crucial is the challenge to provide instructors for these new converts so that they can proceed beyond the mere externals of Islam by learning Arabic. Studying the Quran for themselves is essential if they are to understand the revolutionary implication of Islam". (Organiser, 10-1-82) □

BRAHMIN LEADER'S VOW

BANGALORE : Vishveshwara Thirth Sri Padangal, head of the Pejavar Mutt, Udupi, today took a vow to go on a 24-hour fast whenever there was serious atrocities on Harijans. He announced this while inaugurating a symposium on immortality, violence and atrocities organised by Sree Ravagendra Goshrama Trust here. (Indian Express Jan. 11) □

Letters to Editor :

Prof. P. B. Shegoankar, head, Maths Dept., Govt. College, Jaora, MP : I liked every piece of the 6th issue of the DV, especially the editorial, "Can-Untouchability be Removed?" & the article, "I will not die a Hindu", by B. Basavalingppa. RSS is no doubt preparing for a showdown & so we Ambedkarites must march fast to counter this plot.

Dr. D. R. Jatav, Govt. PG College, Ganganagar, Rajasthan : My regards to the editor for his valuable services through the *Dalit Voice*.

Fr. Peter Lewis, Nasik : I wish all the best for DV which is very inspiring & bold. I feel you must go hand in hand with the *Oppressed Indian*.

Q. Z. Zaidi, Allahabad : Deoli & Sadhupur killings speak of the high caste rule in UP. Besides these killings, hundreds of other innocent persons are shot dead after dubbing them as robbers & anti-social elements. The local police are arresting under NSA mostly Opposition leaders, students, but mainly dalits.

Jerard Heuz, France : The DSA books are very clear & quite useful. The problem of the Indian dalits is the most important problem of India. I want to emphasize it and help the Europeans to discover it by writing a book.

S. Ahmad, London : Wishing you all the success. Your books have proved very useful to us.

Christina Ise, Hong Kong : We are following the massacre of dalits in India with much concern & the DV is helping us to understand the gravity of the situation.

Dr. S. H. Alvi, College of Engineering, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia : We have heard of the DV as the voice of the persecuted minorities of India & therefore very much interested in having it.

Prof. Pierre Mouterde, camp, Calcutta : I was very much touched by DV's political approach & its genuine conviction for

working practically & not merely theoretically. Wishing you a glorious future.

ZIK, Editor, MM, London : I wish DV will grow into a really popular journal. Its printing standard & the quality of the paper should improve but it will take time. I assure you of my best possible cooperation.

Syed Iqbal Ali, Pullman, USA : The condition of the Blacks here is exactly like the conditions of the Muslims in India. Like the "Sarkari Blacks", Indian Muslims are ruled by "Sarkari Muslims". I am sure RSS-minded people will not tolerate a journal like DV & will do their best to crush it. They are cunning & have all the power. Well-organised. They don't want the Muslims & dalits to get organised & fight for their rights.

T. R. Doss, director, Technical Education (Rtd.) AP, Hyderabad : I agree with your view fully except on one basic issue. What has been going on all over India (violence against dalits) is not 'caste war.' It is a naked 'class war.' Would not an Untouchable landlord butcher dalit coolies if they fight for higher wages?

Narayanan Periya, Kerala : Congratulations to the DV which truly represents the cause of all weaker sections. The Kerala Rationalists Assn. (I am its Cannanore dt. com. president) recently conducted a state wide march against casteism also pledging support to dalits.

Raja L. Chakkathara, Kuttanadu, Kerala : I liked DV very much. Keep it up.

Dr. S. G. Balani, MD, consulting physician, Bombay : The article, "A Revolutionary Swamy of Kerala", (DV no. 6) was heartening. Indeed Swami Ananda Tirtha seems to be a gem among the present-day social reformers. Presence of many more such sages would be the real solution to the problem of untouchability and misunderstanding of caste system.

M. Kumaran, Nagpur : Dr. S. G. Balani of Bombay desires that we adopt "correct means" for right end (DV no. 6 page

6). He should know what the Brahmin advisers of Sri Rama did to trace the cause of the death of a Brahmin boy, & what was the result. He may read my article in the same issue of the DV, "Why Rama killed Sambuka?". When the Brahmins are prepared to pray for all, why they could'nt tolerate the penance of a poor shudra for his salvation? Does, as a doctor, Dr. Balani believe that the cause of the death of the Brahmin boy was the penance of Sambuka? If he wants to know the relevant portion of the original Valmiki Ramayana, I shall quote in original Sanskrit too. If he reads the relevant portion of the original Ramayana, he will understand that the Brahmin priests were the worst culprits to make Kshatriya kings to take to criminal acts as Rama did in the case of Sambuka. Balani should also know that Sambuka was only a Shudra, a kinsman of Arya division, & not an anti-caste or even an Untouchable. Now, let me here Balani. Be little rational in your outlook,. You are highly a qualified doctor of medicine.

D. R. Phule, Gulbarga : It is a great pleasure to go through the DV. Your comments on RSS are superb. Congratulations on behalf dalits

Sultan Akhtar Patel, Bassein, Bombay : I feel DV should be reproduced both in America and Africa where people suppress their fellow beings on the basis of colour just as Hindus here do on the basis of birth. Your courageous journal is making history here.

Shaheer Alam, Ghorakhpur, UP : Congratulations to Navaneetham of TN for suggesting formation of an association called the "Brotherhood of DV Readers". The matter is urgent.

M Moidu, Calicut, Kerala : Muslims belonging to this area like me are included in the OBC list & some bits of the rotten meat are thrown to us in the name of reservations. However, the poor & illite-

rate Muslim fisherman are not included in the list while the Hindu fishermen are given reservations.

Ashamella, Trombay : Dalits are angry with Hinduism because as a religion it sanctions discrimination against us. We must organise through the DV to fight this oppressive religion.

Edwin L. Dsouza, Rahuri, Ahemadnagar, dt : Congratulations on the excellent editorial, "Bid to Throttle Christians in India," (DV. no 1)

Tirlochan Kumar, Barnala, Punjab : Congratulations to the editorial, "Can Untouchability be Removed?" (DV. No. 6). Much impressed by the articles of B. Basavalingppa & R. S. Gaval. We fully appreciate your efforts as a crusader for the dalits & the persecuted minorities.

G. Udaimuthu, Chandigarh : I wish your cause success as long its propogation depends on educating the suppressed & making them conscious of their rights & making them rely upon peaceful methods.

Dr. C. Balasundaram, Ex-councillor, Bangalore : DV is the true voice of the dalits. As a bold & dare-devil writer, the editor uses his pen as a sword to fight for dalit rights. Every word in the DV propogates the ideals of Ambedkar & Periyar. If all the educated dalits read it, very soon it will be possible to bring it as a daily Voice.

P Padmanabhan, Somanur, TN : I have recently got rid of the stigma of being a Hindu. The spark came through a "letter" in the *Hindu* by a Brahmin saying that the use of any language other than Sanskrit inside the temple would destroy its sanctity. That provoked me to go through history books & then I came across DV which made me realise what a hoax is Hindu religion. No person with dignity & self-respect can remain a Hindu. I am sure regular reading of DV will enlighten us & equip us with arms to get liberated from Hinduism. Help liberation of Tamil Elam." □

DALIT LEADERS TO JAPAN

(Our correspondent)

Bombay : In the first-ever contact with the persecuted minorities abroad, four prominent Dalit Panther leaders are going on a tour of Japan in March on an invitation from the Buraku community, a counterpart of the Indian Untouchables facing identical problems. The team consists of Prof. Arun Kamble, Bombay, president of the Dalit Panthers of India, Rameshchandra Parmar, president, Gujarat unit, Bapurao Pakhde, advocate, president Delhi unit, and Ramdas Athavle, a noted dalit writer. P. P. Garude, general secretary of the Buddhist Society of India, had visited Japan in 1980 and had discussions with the Burakus who came to know of the dalit movement in India and the historic role

played by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, considered as the greatest Indian after the Buddha. Kazuhiro Usui had already written to the *Dalit Voice* that after their discussions with Garud, Burakus got a correct understanding of the dalit movement launched by Ambedkar. The Burakus have already translated to Japanese all the important works of dalits and published it as a book. Besides, two members of the Buraku community had visited India at the invitation of the dalits in 1981. Meanwhile, Daya Pawar & Laxman Mane, both prominent Marathi dalit writers, have returned after completing the Ford Foundation scholarship in the US. Mane, a nomadic tribe, is the author of the famous book, *Upas & Pawar of Bajute*. Mane belongs to Dalit Panthers and resides at Satara. □

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Editorial

[Contd. from Page 2]

this that the Govt. of India report alleging Arab money was prepared after Makwana made his statement in Parliament on Dec-9? If such a report had been there even when Makwana made the statement in Parliament, why did he mislead the House? Who is right : whether the Govt. of India or the *Organiser*? Where does the truth lie? Who is fooling whom? The report makes grave charges against the US and Arab countries particularly Saudi Arabia with which India has cordial relationship. But the ambassadors of these countries had already met the Prime Minister & protested when similar allegations were made in a section of the Indian press. The Govt. is then reported to have assured the envoys that the allegations were baseless. Does not the *Organiser* leakage put the Govt. in a very embarrassing position now? Apart from involving Muslim countries, the allegations made in the report involves India's relations with other countries. A govt. report charging the US & Arab countries with alleged attempt to destroy India will not be brushed aside in these countries even if India's ruling class chooses to keep quiet. We don't want to enter into the innumerable allegations made against several responsible Muslim organisations both inside and outside India. If the *Organiser* report is owned by the Govt., it will lead to serious repercussions. Therefore, without entering into any controversy, we call upon the Govt. of India to come out with the truth. Dalits and other persecuted minorities have every right to seek the truth. Can anybody play with the lives of the people and get away with it? Are the dalits—the original inhabitants of India & hence its real owners—so cheap to be bought by Arab or US money? The *Organiser* leakage that Arab funds being responsible for the conversions of Untouchables to Islam has cast a serious aspersion on the dalits & therefore they have every right to seek the truth. Who is bluffing? RSS or the Govt.? And will the dalits allow themselves to be made the pawns? Should they tolerate this insult? Have they self-respect? □

KARNATAKA CALL FOR DALITASTAN

D. M. Thimmarayaappa, convener,

Karnataka Dalit Action Committee

Bangalore : Dalits all over India are being killed and shot dead. The atrocities on dalits are on the increase. Thousands of dalits are murdered including women. Dalit women are raped and molested. The present law to protect the dalits is ineffective. The Hindus are bent upon killing the dalits systematically. This could be proved from the killings of dalits in Belchi, Pipra, Deoli and Sadhupura villages. Recently 13 dalits in Madhya Pradesh were beheaded. Dalits are being shot dead and killed like birds and animals. They have no protection. Therefore, we call upon the dalits to fight for the following demands: (1) Dalits must have separate Dalitastan within India as demanded by Dr. Ambedkar, (2) Pending formation of the Dalitastan, arms should be secured by dalits immediately for self-protection, (3) Those committing atrocities on dalits shall be hanged like Billa and Ranga, (4) Special Commission on each incident on dalits shall be appointed, (5) Minimum compensation of Rs. 50,000- shall be paid to the each of the family of victims.

CHURCH'S CONCERN AT PLIGHT OF THE POOR

TIRUCHIRAPALLI : Cardinal Lawrence Picachy, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of India, said on Jan. 7 that the church could not remain a passive spectator in the face of poverty, unequal distribution of wealth, unemployment, industrial unrest and atrocities on Harijans, reports UNI. In his presidential address at the 10-day Catholic Bishops Conference of India, which began here yesterday, he said the church must be watchful to see whether the interests of the poorer groups were sufficiently protected. The church had serious involvement in health and it should redouble its efforts in this direction. (*Indian Express*)

SAIBABA VARSITY

BOMBAY : The National Council of the Indian Rationalist Association has protested against the steps taken by the Andhra Pradesh government to elevate a degree college into a university in the name of Satya Saibaba "setting aside accepted norms and procedures in the field of education". The council in a resolution called on the people to impress upon the state and Central governments to desist from taking "such a harmful and dangerous measure". The council was also critical of observance of religious customs and traditions at state functions which it felt was a departure from the path of secularism set out in the preamble of the Constitution.

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