Agreement

In the wake of the situation arising out of the abduction of Shri Alex Paul Menon, the young Collector of Sukma District on the 21st April, 2012, by the Maoists the four mediators, namely, Dr. B.D. Sharma and Prof. G. Hargopal [who were nominated by the CPI (Maoist) in South Bastar Division], and Smt. Nirmala Buch and Shri S.K. Misra [who were nominated by the Govt. of Chhattisgarh] met in Raipur to resolve the issue. The mediators discussed all relevant aspects of the issues concerning the welfare and grievances of the tribals in Bastar areas, and various demands raised by Maoists. After detailed discussion, spanning over four sessions in three days, the mediators have arrived at the following agreement;

- 1. The matter which is of utmost concern to the mediators is the wellbeing of Alex the young Collector, who continues to be with the CPI (Maoists), away from his family. The mediators nominated by the Maoists have agreed as a gesture of goodwill to ensure the safe return of Alex within 48 hours i.e. on or before the 2nd of May 2012.
- 2. The second issue which concerned the mediators is the large number of tribals and others who are in the judicial custody in the state in various jails. The state government has agreed to set up a high-powered committee to be Standing Committee to regularly review all cases of persons in respect of whom investigation/prosecution is pending. This includes Maoists related cases. These prisoners are in distress in view of the long time taken in investigation / prosecution for various reasons and

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the great inconvenience caused to their near relatives / family members who come from long distances to meet them in jail. The review committee shall be chaired by Smt. Nirmala Buch and shall have the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Chhattisgarh and Director General of Police (DGP) of the State as members. The committee shall regularly review all cases of persons in jails in the state where investigation/ prosecution is still in progress. In such review the lists of cases received by the mediators in respect of tribals of Bastar and surrounding areas shall be given priority. The committee will give its recommendation to the State Government which will consider these cases with a sense of urgency. The committee shall become operational within an hour of the release of Alex, Collector Sukma.

Nirmala Buch

B. D. Sharma
Dr. B.D Sharma

In Witness thereof:

N.K Aswal

Principal Secretary (Home)

Govt. of Chhattisgarh

APPEAL

The mediators nominated by the Maoist Party have had discussions with Smt. Nirmala Buch, and Shri S.K. Misra after their meeting with the party. The Government agreed to the following points:

- 1. The Government will constitute a High-Power Committee under the chairpersonship of Smt. Nirmala Buch with Chief Secretary and Director General of Police (DGP) of Chhattisgarh as members. This committee will review the cases of all prisoners who have been languishing in Chhattisgarh jails including the cases demanded by the Maoists party. The committee will review the cases periodically to expedite the disposal of maximum number of cases especially related to tribals.
- 2. Relief will be provided in all cases of victims of Human Rights violations.

Under the given circumstances, we as mediators feel that this was the agreement that could be worked out. We appeal to Maoist Party, Southern Regional Committee, Dandakaranya to consider this proposal favourably and ensure safe return of the Collector Alex Paul Menon, whose spouse is in the family way.

Prof. G. Hargopal

30/4/2012 Dr. B.D. Sharma