The Mystery Man

Singing and dancing to the tune of Baba Naam Kevalam groups of saffron-clad sannyasis marched through the streets of Patna on July 4 symbolizing that they are back on the road of bliss. Millions of Anand Margis the world over, at the same time, were celebrating the day as the “Victery of Dharma”. Their Guru Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar alias Anandmurti the “God-incarnate” was no longer a troubled or haunted man, no longer a “criminal”.

The Patna High Court has acquitted him of all charges of criminal conspiracy and killing of six Anand Marg defectors, the charge that had brought him down from the lotus-shaped podium to a dark cell in Patna Central Jail. Acquitted with him were four of his trusted followers Acharya Sarvepalli Ramanaand Anandmurti, the former general secretary of Marg, Acharya Sarvanand Anandmurti, the senior-most monk of Anandmurti, Barun Kumar Mukherji and Prativa Kumar Roy.

The verdict of the court, setting at liberty the Anandmurti after he had spent seven years in jail, has come exactly on the day when the entire organization with all its front-organizations was outlawed by the Government in 1975. The court was satisfied that the prosecution (CBI) has failed to prove the charges against Anandmurti and others.

Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar alias Anandmurti—once charged...
your organization have been a victim of a calculated malicious propaganda by a certain agency aimed at destroying your organization. Much damage has been caused to your organization during the past seven years during which you were in jail. Now, if you are acquitted of all charges, how do you plan to remove misunderstanding from public mind to re-establish your organization?

A. We will be doing our human service duties with subjective approach and objective adjustment.

Q. Much confusion was created in the past because of lack of communication by you and the general public. Do you think it is proper to have public contact so that confusion does not persist? Why have you lived a secluded life in the past?

A. There is no necessity of my living in public contact because actual social service is rendered by the workers of the organization. I simply assist the workers.

Q. The speed with which Anand Marg has spread in the west and attracted a large number of people, has created misgivings that it is being supported or sponsored by some foreign agencies. Moreover, your attacks on KGB and CBI in the past without mentioning the name of CIA has added to the confusion. What have you to say this allegation?

A. I do not know if CIA did any harm to Anand Marg. If the same is brought to my notice with sufficient proof, I would certainly condemn them. I have not any weakness for any organization. Good people should always be supported and not condemned in unambiguous language.

Q. It was alleged that you wanted to capture political power and establish Sadvipra Raj in the world. No doubt this was refused in the court but at the same time books referred to in the court during trial confirmed this view in which you have said, “Violence is the essence of life.” How do you explain the facts?

A. What I said in the court is final. The word I use is “Sadvipra Samaj” and not “Sadvipra Raj”. “Raj” is a microscopic fraction of Samaj. My view regarding violence has already been clarified by me. It is not always Hindu. My interpretation of violence can co-exist with Ahimsa.

Q. Do you have any political ambitions? Do you feel that unless corruption was removed, the society, would not be of your liking? And how do you want to establish that kind of society? Unless you take active part in politics, is it possible?

A. I have got no political ambition. I have propounded the theory of Purok for the welfare of human society. This theory will be materialized by those who love it.

Q. What is your opinion about democracy?

A. Democracy can be successful only where the following essential factors are present at least amongst 51% of the voters—morality, literacy and socio-economic-political consciousness. Otherwise it is an instrument to bedevil the public.