Appendix I

Unity Resolution Adopted by the Congress Working Committee
New Delhi, 25 August 1969

"The Working Committee views with grave concern the deep fissures which have developed in the Congress Party in the last few weeks, dividing not only respected colleagues and old comrades but the entire membership of the Party. Serious differences arose at the Bangalore Session of the AICC and in the Parliamentary Board, followed by other developments which climaxed in the defeat of Shri Reddy in the Presidential poll. While it is painful and unfortunate that a large segment of the Congress voters failed to support Shri Reddy, it is necessary to examine why this deep cleavage has taken place. What is needed is that the disease should be treated rather than the symptoms are dealt with.

"No political party can progress unless there is a sense of solidarity amongst its members. Disciplined conduct and behaviour is an essential ingredient for the proper functioning of a party. However, this can be effectively ensured only on the basis of strict adherence to party policies and programmes and internal democracy within the party involving party organs at various levels. Unfortunately, over the years there has been a weakening of the bonds of solidarity in the Congress party, leading to factionalism and erosion of discipline, which has come in the way of effective functioning both at party and Governmental level."
"A factor of crucial importance is the need for the two key figures in the organisation, the President of the Congress and the Leader of the Parliamentary Party to work harmoniously and with mutual understanding. The President of the Congress has the important task of running the organisation which has the responsibility to lay down broad policies and rally the people in support of accepted policies. The Leader of the Parliamentary Party as Prime Minister, has to implement party policies, but as Head of the Government has wider responsibilities to the country as a whole in the national and international sphere. They are not rival centres of power. They have to function in a complementary manner in the interest of the Party and the country.

"The Working Committee wishes to emphasise that any attempt to denigrate either the head of the organisation or the head of the Government, is bound to hurt the Party and tarnish its image, leading to the weakening of both. Such attempts must be avoided.

"The Working Committee appreciates that there is deep ferment among members of the Party. It believes, however, that the generality of the membership wishes ardently that a way should be found to restore unity within the Party. Mistakes have been made on all sides in the wake of the conflict of ideas and approaches in the last few weeks. This calls for introspection."
"A split in the party will have incalculable consequences. Let us therefore not say or do anything which is likely to widen the breach. The Working Committee calls upon all Congressmen to help create conditions in which the normal and healthy functioning of the Party will be restored. Let us all strive to contribute to unity in the organisation, based on commitment to the accepted policies thus generating a new dynamism on the political and economic front."

Source: Congress Bulletin, New Delhi, August-September, 1969.