

## **PRESS RELEASE**

August 30, 2016

### **Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala, Incharge Communications, AICC has issued the following statement to the press today:-**

In April, 2016; Congress Party had raised grave concerns about steps being taken by Modi government to enter into three 'strategic foundational agreements' with United States. Defence Minister, Shri Manohar Parriker and US Defence Secretary, Shri Ashton Carter have now signed 'Logistic Exchange Memorandum of Agreement' (LEMOA) on 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2016.

Signing of LEMOA is a fundamental departure from India's time tested policy of 'strategic military neutrality'. It raises a genuine and grave apprehension regarding India being unwarrantedly drawn into an operational military design in Asia Pacific Region and Middle East.

Congress Party expresses serious concern over jeopardizing India's National, geo global and strategic interests by signing of LEMOA. This Agreement will also cause serious misgivings, unless explained and justified, among India's traditional partners and time tested allies, regionally and globally.

Modi government has neither explained the reasons which prompted this major shift nor made the contents of the agreement public. Congress Party demands that contents of the agreement be placed in public domain or at least shared with leadership of opposition parties as this decision has been taken in an opaque manner by stealth as also unilaterally without National consensus.