

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

June 11, 1963.

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My dear Pasricha,

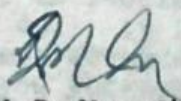
I have seen in today's Times of India a reference to a joint letter addressed by you and local spokesmen of other parties in Delhi, to various opposition leaders.

While I welcome and appreciate the enthusiasm that animates you and your co-signatories, I fear the suggestion about evolving a joint programme is unlikely to bear fruit. The PSP, at its Bhopal meeting, and Dr. Lohia have already made this clear. A more fruitful path is that of evolving ~~an~~ agreement on joint issues, as and when they arise. This is also the view expressed by Deen Dayal Upadhyaya of the Jan Sangh and Madhu Limaye of the Socialist Party. In view of this, I am not in favour of a summit meeting which would only raise hopes, and then create disappointment. Any consultations of this nature should be bilateral and informal.

I hope you will not feel that I am pouring cold water on your idea. It is simply that I do not feel that the other Parties are in a mood to respond.

In any event, neither Rajaji, or I, or anyone else can respond to your suggestion, unless and until it is placed before a meeting of the Central Organising Committee or the Parliamentary Board of the Party. I am in touch with our President and Rajaji about the date and venue of such a meeting. Meanwhile, of course, informal and personal consultations can proceed.

Yours sincerely,


(M. R. Masani)

Col. H. R. Pasricha,
20B Gangaram Hospital Road,
New Delhi.

P.S. Since this was dictated the letter of 7th June signed by you and your co-signatories has come to my hands. While I agree that on the solitary plank of resolute defence of the country we should all be united, I do not think your letter takes away from the logic of my reply.