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October 9, 1979.

My dear Harihar Patel,

Thank you for your letter of 3rd October. I hasten to reply. I am glad to see Mr. Vajpai's letter but fear there is an ambiguity in your correspondence with him.

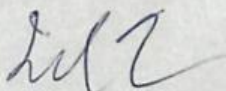
I am afraid you have assumed that I am prepared to stand as a Janata Party candidate. This is not so, in my view because there is nothing whatsoever to choose between the three protagonists for power. I enclose a copy of my letter which was published in the Indian Express of 10th August which makes this clear. For someone who takes my position, the only way to stand is as an Independent, and though Mr. Vajpai had mentioned this possibility in his press statement, I understand that a Secretary of the Janata Party has repudiated Mr. Vajpai's offer and insisted that candidates must accept the discipline of the Janata Party. This has not happened in my case, because I anticipated such an attitude and have shown no interest in standing for election, but it has happened in the case of an eminent and distinguished friend of ours. In view of all this, I think we had better drop the matter.

There is no reason whatsoever for me to be annoyed with your suggestion. On the contrary, I am touched by the concern and the interest of yourself and our friends in Bhubaneswar.

What about the position in Orissa? Do enlighten me.

Yours sincerely,

Encl: As Above.



(M. R. MASANI)

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MRM:vhb