

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

November 10, 1967.

1315

My dear Morarjibhai,

I enclose herewith, in case it does not come to your notice, a letter I have sent to the press about the appointment of Mr. S. S. Dhawan as Indian High Commissioner in London. I am sure the information it contains will come to you as a shock.

Unfortunately, there are ugly rumours of something worse to come, and that is the Prime Minister's desire to appoint another communist, Ramesh Thapar, as Minister of State for External Affairs. It is to be hoped that these rumours are baseless. Ramesh Thapar, as you will no doubt recall from your Bombay Government experience, was the Editor for many years of Crossroads, the official organ of the Communist Party of India. That organ has from time to time changed its name due to tactical considerations, from People's War to Crossroads and now New Age. Ramesh Thapar was dealt with for seditious material by the Madras Government under the Madras Maintenance of Public Order Act, as the Editor, Printer and Publisher of the Communist Party organ, in the year 1950.

In case it is urged that Thapar is no longer a communist, the question that needs to be asked is when and where he announced his renunciation of communism. The fact is that he has never once stated that he has changed his views. He writes articles even today in a Bombay journal called Economic and Political Weekly (specimen article attached) from a consistently leftist angle, attacking those whom he considers "Rightists" whether in the Congress Party or outside. The appointment of a confirmed communist like this in the Ministry of External Affairs is not something to which I can believe you would be party. I am, therefore, drawing your attention to it so that some move like this may not slip by without attracting your notice.

Yours sincerely,

(M. R. Masani)

Mr. Morarji Desai
Deputy Prime Minister
New Delhi

ENC:As mentioned above

MRM:PB

Judgement of Supreme Court on 26.5.1950 in SCR Pg. 594

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