

January 1985

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My dear Sivaji:

Have't heard from you for some time now. Hope your family and you are well. See Prof. Ranga was elected. How could this happen? Would the result have been different had you been the candidate opposing him? The Desam's victories at Srikakulam and Rajampet confirm if confirmation was needed of NTR's total popularity with the people of Andhra. This is indeed encouraging and a hope for the future against India turning into a dictatorship. My congratulations to him and the party for an undoubtedly magnificent achievement.

You must have ~~known~~ seen a press report in which Mr. Masani (earlier this month) had advocated a Federal Party. He had in that interview to an Indian Express correspondent suggested that NTR, Ramakrishna Hegde Mr. Farooq Abdullah and Mr. Karunanidhi should get together to discuss how such a party could be brought about and provide the country with a national opposition to the Congress(I). Subsequently we saw reports in the press of NTR's proposal to launch a Bharat Desam party after the Assembly elections. While both Mr. Masani and I are glad that NTR is thinking along the same lines of a federal party, we were disappointed that he made the announcement without preparing the initial groundwork to ensure broadbased support particularly from the leaders of parties at the state level in Kashmir, Tamil Nad and Karnataka. Enclosed is a copy of Mr. Masani's column in the Statesman of 28.01.85. Please see the last two paragraphs and if possible draw NTR's attention to them.

Another disappointment was NTR's total support to the Anti-Defection Bill which was adopted yesterday. While in ~~principle~~ principle the ~~Bill~~ need for such legislation is imperative, the Bill itself has been pushed through in a hurry to safeguard Congress(I)'s position whatever Rajiv Gandhi may say. While his acceptance of one of the objections is welcome, there are other aspects which are quite objectionable from the point of view of intra-party democracy and the need to develop healthy conventions.

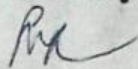
Nevertheless both of us continue to feel that NTR alone can provide the alternative national leadership that the country ~~so~~ so desperately needs. The need is for abundant caution, consultation with others particularly outside Andhra and fundamental thinking to enable the new federal party to strike deep roots. Even the name Bharat Desam might not be advisable as not every state describes itself as Desam. It is 'Nadu' in Tamil Nad, 'Desh' in others and 'Pradesh' in some others!

Do bring these to NTR's notice.

There is a possibility of my coming to Hyderabad in ~~some~~ connection with my newly started management consultancy. As soon as dates are finalised I shall let you know in advance. Maybe, at that time, we could meet and perhaps if you think it worthwhile if you could arrange for me to call on NTR.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



S.V. Raju