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Telephone No. 47451

Telegrams : "ACTSAUDIT"

DELHI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

NEW DELHI.

- MEMBERS :-
1. The Indian National Committee, International Chamber of Commerce, Paris.
 2. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry, New Delhi.

No. DCC. 35-F-3/59.

Dated the July 1, 1959.

Dilbar Building,
PAHARGANJ,

From

SIRDAR P.S. SODHBANS, F.C.A., F.A.C.C.A., (LONDON)
Honorary Secretary.

To

The Secretary General,
The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry,
Federation House,
NEW DELHI.

Dear Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. F.C. 111/Memo/6 dated the 11th June, 1959 and have noted the contents with keen interest.

My Committee fully appreciate the activities of the Federation in all spheres of Commerce & Industry and feel fully satisfied with its efforts in this connection in the capacity of Central Organization of the Commercial and Industrial Community in the Union of India.

My Committee further note with pleasure that the Federation have decided to hold an All-India Businessmen's Convention, a Seminar on Planning and also to hold an Afro-Asian Economic Conference in India. This big programme undoubtedly require money which should be contributed by the Community.

In this connection my Committee seriously feel in view of the previous experiences, that all such activities, efforts and representations to the Government, however, strongly and emphatically worded have created no substantial and favourable results, but on the other hand the Government have been acting all the time against the wishes of the people without caring the least for the views of the Central Organization of the Community i.e. the Federation. You are very well aware of all the facts and I feel no necessity to mention here in detail. My Committee is anxious to know for how long this state of affairs will continue and the interests of the Community will practically remain unprotected. It is, therefore, essential in the interest of the organization itself that your Committee should give a serious consideration on this subject as to how the views and proposals sent by the Federation in the interest of the Community and the country bring forth practical results? You will agree with me that the well thought and considered proposals and views are formulated by the experienced and practical members of the Federation and not by laymen or bogus personalities and unfortunately these are thrown in the waste paper basket by the Government instead of giving due weight and carrying them into effect.

It is an irony of fate that in the wake of Socialist Pattern of Society the interests of the Commercial & Industrial Community are being indifferently treated and the economy of the country is disturbed by turning deaf ears to the sane and sound proposals and views of the Federation. You will agree with me that diplomacy has no place at all in the industrial development of the country, as we all believe in economic regeneration.

It is a well known fact that members of the Commercial Community contributed crores of rupees during the struggle for freedom and then for the last two general elections to the exchequer of the Congress for the benefit of Indian public and establishment of real democracy or Ram Raj of Mahatma Gandhi's dream, but what the community has got in return a public sector to feed the inexperienced officers on the verge of retirement. In this context, I am directed to invite your special attention to the views of Shri Ramaswamy Mudaliar in his inaugural address at one of the Luncheon meetings in connection with the Annual Session of the Federation. Shri Mudaliar emphatically *impressed upon the members of the Federation to maintain the prestige of the Federation as the Central Organization of the Commercial and Industrial Community*, as he seriously felt that the present treatment of the Government in power instead of proving grateful to the Community, is bent upon to squeeze it in order to thrust the Communist ideologies on the people of the Country.

It will not be out of place to make reference to the visit of Mr. Clement Johnson, President of American Chamber of Commerce, New York, early in 1956, when my Chamber gave him a cordial reception at the "Standard Restaurant", New Delhi. Mr. Clement Johnson in his address on the subject of "Status of Chambers of Commerce in U.S.A." explained in clear terms that the economic policies in the U.S.A. Congress are dictated by the Chambers of Commerce and the Congress can in no case go against the wishes of the Commercial Community of U. S. A., and the Nationalization is not known in that country. The present position of the U. S. A. as a leading industrial and wealthy nation of the world is mainly due to the honest and sincere co-operation of the public. These facts were also reiterated by me in my Presidential Address at the Annual Meeting of this Chamber in October, 1956.

In view of the above facts, I am directed to approach your Committee with a request to use its iron will to curb the present tactics of the Government. In my opinion this course is desirable to help the nascent enterprises which have been started since independence. It is well known that the First Plan which was more or less was a plan to give impetus to grow more food, has miserably failed. The cost of living has greatly increased and consequently the cost of labour has gone very high. Under such circumstances our manufacturers cannot compete in foreign markets. The Government is living in fools paradise when pressing for Export Trade. The time is now ripe and the iron is red to strike with guts and determination when the Rashtriyapati himself has begun to feel the need for the review of the Government Policies.

My Committee feel confident that the Ex-Committee of the Federation will realize their responsibility to the members of the organization and give full thought to the proposition, which is agitating the minds of the public generally and of the Industrial and Commercial Community particularly.

Requesting the favour of an early acknowledgment and the reaction of the Federation's executives on the subject.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) P. S. SODHABANS,
Hony. Secretary.

Forwarded to the Member Bodies of the Federation for favour of serious consideration and support.