

8th-8P file
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Dear Jayaprakashji:

The performance of the Janata Front in Gujarat though creditable is nevertheless disappointing inasmuch as it failed to secure an absolute majority. The people have, while demonstrating their support and welcoming the development, stopped short of putting it in power. The shortfall is explainable by the doubts in a section of the electorate of the Front's ability to present a homogeneous Ministry.

The fears many of us had of the irrelevance of the electoral device to reflect the aspirations of the people has also to some extent been dispelled by the Gujarat voter. This must be viewed in the context of Mrs. Gandhi's active campaigning. The Indira Wave has ebbed but like a wave can rise again if the opposition once again, as it did before 1971, demonstrates its inability to provide the people with a clear and honest administration.

The Allahabad Court decision and its moral defiance by the Prime Minister and her party colleagues bodes ill for the future of democracy. If the Supreme Court upholds the Allahabad judgement, and if the present mood of Mrs. Gandhi and her party are any indication it is not at all impossible for a situation to develop where an attempt may be made to seize power in 12 Bangla Desh with the help of the C.P.I. and a pliant President who is the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

Communist

We in the Swatantra Party consider you Rajaji's logical successor and we therefore feel that the future of Indian democracy is very much in your hands. We have in the last few days read reports of statements by leaders of some political parties advocating either an outright merger of the Non-opposition parties or a Federation of Parties. We will go along with either idea provided that in either event you assume active leadership.

We are convinced that even a single opposition party or a federal one will not carry conviction with the people unless they see it at its top a person whom they can trust and follow and who is prepared to assume responsibility for the alternative Government. You are the only person who enjoys the confidence of the mass of our people and we therefore write this to plead with you not only to redouble your efforts to bring about a consolidation of opposition parties but also to declare publicly your intention to lead it.

If you were to make such a public declaration, we on our part will publicly declare our intention to either disband our Party or federate, as the case may be, and place ourselves entirely at your disposal.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,

K. Sundaram (President)

G.K. Munshi (General Secretary)

Harihar Patel (Vice President)

Parmanand Kejriwal (Vice President)

I.S. Bhargava (Convenor - Rajasthan)

V.S. Srikumar (Joint Secretary)

S.V. Raju (Joint Secretary)