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23rd May, 1972.

Dear Mr. Rustonji,

Thank you for your letter of 17th May. I am interested in the concern that you show about the sad state of affairs in our country and the way it is slowly moving towards disaster. You are on less firm ground, however, in your impression that I have maintained either total silence or total passivity since the Parliamentary Elections of 1971. It is true that I retired from the Presidentship of the Swatantra Party for very good reasons which have been vindicated by the developments in the country and the Party since. On the other hand, I have been quite active in spreading liberal principles and promoting basic civic education in this country.

I have been extremely busy as Honorary Secretary of the Leslie Savhngy Programme of Training for Democracy and enclose a copy
* of the last annual report. Then again, I have taken up from January onwards the Editorship of Freedom First, a hard core
** liberal journal. I enclose a copy of the latest issue and shall be happy if you will feel like subscribing to it. You will find a form for this purpose on page 16.

I also am a founder and a promoter of the Indian Liberal Group
*** particulars of which you will find on the opening page of the enclosed pamphlet. I shall be very glad if you will feel like helping in all these constructive activities as I feel that it will give you great satisfaction.

I shall be glad to meet you, if you so desire, after you have perused the enclosed material. Do telephone me and let me know when you would like to come so that we can make an appointment.

Yours sincerely,

(M.R. Masani)

Encl: *

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P.S. My understanding of the present situation in
the country can be found in the text
of the speech made by me at the
recent General Council meeting of the S.P.
which is attached.

mrn/ml