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November 21, 1989

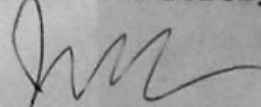
Dear Mr. President,

I am taking the liberty of sending to you herewith an advance copy of an item from my column in the "Statesman" which will appear on Sunday, 26th November. As it will be too late by then to proffer this advice to you, I am sending you this advance copy.

I do believe that if the contingency that is contemplated does arise and the Congress Party does not get a clear majority, it will prove that the people of India have given a mandate against the Congress Party. It would therefore be morally correct for the President to call first the leader of the next biggest group and to call the leader of the Congress Party only in case the other gentleman cannot form a coalition.

It is improper to call any one individual before he is elected leader of the Party at a properly convened meeting of the members of the new Parliament. I am sure you will avoid such an action as was taken on the last occasion.

yours sincerely



(M.R. Masani)

Mr. R. Venkataraman
President of India
Rashtrapati Bhavan
New Delhi