

DEUTSCHE WELLE

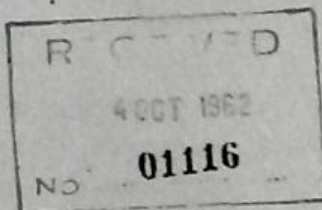
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143 Mahatma Gandhi Road
B o m b a y 1
Indien



Ihr Schreiben vom

Ihr Zeichen

Unser Zeichen SH/ar

KÖLN, den 28.9.1962

Dear Mr. Masani,

Please find enclosed a copy of your interview. You will kindly excuse the delay of sending it but you will imagine that building up our new South Asia Section is under the prevailing circumstances, i.e. lack of personell etc., not an easy job.

With kindest regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

E. N. Shaffer
(E. N. Shaffer)

Encl.

Dr. Lenz: Mr. Masani, this is the first time that I attend a congress of the Liberal World Union. You are such an integrated member of liberalism. Could you tell me what's all about and what are the important aspects of this congress?

Mr. Masani: Well, I've been very favourably impressed by the spirit which has actuated our discussions so far. I find a spirit of genuine liberalism pervading these discussions, mostly on international relations. Coming from an area where neutralism and the confusion that goes with it is rampant, I found the discussions on the ways in which the cold war has to be fought and ~~and~~ like a breath of fresh air and I was very encouraged by the spirit of putting liberty first which has animated these discussions.

Dr. Lenz: Mr. Masani, not only questions of liberal importance have been discussed but also of political importance, especially for us Europeans. You know the question of political union has been mentioned by some speakers and you would do me a great favour if you could also tell us something of this problem and explain the attitude which your Prime Minister took at the Commonwealth Conference in London, which disappointed a little, judging from paper reports.

Mr. Masani: I am afraid I can't explain our Prime Minister's point of view since I belong to an ~~Opposition~~ party which is not in agreement with him on this subject. My party, which is broadly a liberal party, would take a different view. It would take a more positive view in respect of the European Economic Community. We would believe that this would be a great step forward in human progress. The world is shrinking and we all recognize the need for a world order and maybe one day for a world government, and this means a limitation on national sovereignty. ~~We~~ We would therefore rejoice at seeing that the countries of Europe, and we hope Britain will join them, are coming together to shed a part of the national sovereignty and move towards the world order. This should be an example to people in other parts of the world. And, apart from this, I think that the EEC would be a factor for peace and freedom. I say this, because if a strong democratic united Europe comes into existence, it would put an end to any fear of Soviet aggression against ~~Western Europe~~ the countries of Western Europe, and thus the danger of a nuclear war would be substantially reduced.

Similarly, the fact that there is a free and united Europe would make it easier politically to secure the liberation of Eastern Germany and the ~~captured~~^{central} countries of Eastern Europe. I said 'politically' and that means without war or fighting. Today it would be difficult to visualize that this could be done, but with a united Europe I think that would be possible. That is why I say that this would be a move towards peace and freedom. Now, at this Congress there has been a great deal of discussion on this matter and what has been said has convinced me that a European Community will not turn its back on the rest of the world, nor do I think it would seek to exploit economically its relation with the rest of the world at the cost of developing countries like my own. Therefore, I would take a much more positive view towards this project than unfortunately our Prime Minister has expressed ~~it~~ at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in London.

Thank you very much, Mr. Masani. May we hope to see you one of these days in Germany.

Heinrich Heine of Berlin

Well, I've been several times in Germany. Mr. Willy Brandt is a ~~very good~~^{good} friend of mine and I shall certainly look forward to another opportunity for a visit.

Thank you, and goodbye.