

November 1, 1967

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Dear Friend,

My felicitations on your election to our Party's General Council which will meet shortly in Delhi.

As you are probably aware, one of the items on the agenda of that meeting is the election of the Party's office-bearers for the coming two years. I thought I would share with you some thoughts of mine in that connection.

It is now seven years since I was elected the Party's General Secretary and I have been at the helm of the organisation through two General Elections and in between. I think it is time for a change.

Rajaji and we have been arguing correctly that it is not good for the country or for Parliamentary democracy to have the same government in office for too long a time. The same considerations appear to me to apply broadly to the administration of a Party's affairs. It is for similar reasons that enlightened circles in Industrial Management throughout the world practice what is described as "job rotation" in their enterprises. I have, therefore, requested our President and Rajaji not to insist on my continuing as General Secretary of the Party.

My decision has been made easier by the fact that, during the last six months while I have been on leave due to my duties as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, Mr. Dandekar has officiated as General Secretary in my place. My advice to the Party is to nominate him General Secretary for the next two years.

I am writing to explain this as certain colleagues have remonstrated with me against stepping aside at a time when the Party needs to redouble its efforts to grow and to serve the country better in its present dire plight. I not only share our awareness of the perils that face our country but also the need to develop the Party's activities and to strengthen its organisation. I have tried to do my best in that direction within the limitations of our human and material resources and of the cooperation which was forthcoming and I shall continue to do so. It is not a sound idea, though it is somewhat widely prevalent, that only the Party's office-bearers should do almost all the work while others remain passive. The Party needs above all a large cadre of devoted and disciplined workers who may not hold office at any level. I should like to help with such a development to the extent that is possible and to serve the party in Parliament and outside, whether by the spoken or the written word, to spread its principles. I hope therefore you will kindly accept this wish of mine without further argument.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for the kind cooperation you have extended to me as General Secretary and to express my hope that you will show my successor the same consideration?

Wishing you a Happy Divali,

Yours truly,

(M. R. Masani)