

H.H. Maharaja P.K. Deo

2865

29-Perozesah Road,
New Delhi.

25.1.1963.

My dear respected Rajaji,

Most reluctantly I like to bring to your notice some developments that have taken place in this Session of the Lok Sabha. It is for the first time that no amendment could be moved by the Swatantra Party on the foreign affairs debate. We should have moved an amendment projecting our stand on the Colombo Conference proposals. We are told by the Leader that in view of an understanding reached with other non-communist opposition leaders no amendment need be moved, but after hearing the initial speech of the Prime Minister intimating the House the Govt's acceptance of the Colombo proposals in principle, after some thought Prof. Ranga phoned to me that we should table an amendment and on the 'phone we decided how the wordings would be. Then, however, in further consultation with the other Opposition leaders he decided not to move any amendment. I strongly feel that we have not been able to clarify correctly our stand on this vital subject. However, Prof. Ranga's speech and mine have amplified our position.

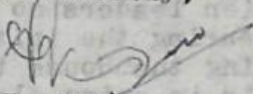
We were informed in the party meeting by Prof. Ranga that the lady members need not take part in the Republic Day procession, but the male members present at Delhi, should take part. Accordingly we have informed those in-charge of the procession that we would be joining. Then all of a sudden a news item appeared in the 'Statesman' in bold letters that Swatantra MPs will not participate in the party, which Prof. Ranga refused to contradict. When this discrepancy was pointed out he told that those, who are keen, may join. It is very difficult to stick to a decision and act accordingly, as whatever is decided is changed the

next day.

These facts have been brought to your notice with the best of intention and not as a complaint against my Leader, and my action may not be construed as an act of indiscipline; lest I should be asked to withdraw this letter.

Hope it finds you in enjoyment of excellent health.

Yours sincerely,


(P. K. Deo).

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Personal Confidential

copy to Sri M. R. Masani for information