

Express Delhiana

2898

3rd August 1962.

My dear Maharajasaheb,

Yesterday I sent you two telegrams, copies attached, in connection with a meeting you are having with the Prime Minister today. I shall be very grateful if you will kindly let me have a report of what happened at the meeting, as Press reports are apt to be misleading in this connection.

I am sorry to see from today's Times of India's Correspondent ~~of~~ Delhi the following statement:-

'The National Integration Committee on Communalism held discussions with Mr. P.K. Deo, Leader of the Swatantra Party in the Lok Sabha. He expressed the view that communal parties should be banned and added that he and his party stood for secularism.'

I do not know how accurate or otherwise is this report. While it is true that our Party stands for non-denominational democracy, I am afraid it would not be correct to say that we stand for banning communal parties. On the contrary Rajaji and many of us have vigorously opposed the suggestion for banning communal parties, as a pernicious one inconsistent with our philosophy. We have gone so far as to say that in Article 60 of our Manifesto.

'The Party will not look upon Associations for the protection of the rights of any classes or communities as communal organisations to be discouraged or banned.'

eff If, as I hope, this report is incorrect and you did not say anything of the kind, I would suggest your writing to Mr. Asok Mehta, the Chairman of the Committee, drawing attention to this inaccurate report, which has obviously leaked from the view of the Committee. If on the other hand, you did give expression to the view that you are in favour of banning, don't you think it would be right for you to write to Mr. Asok Mehta, making it perfectly clear that this was your personal point of view and that the Party holds the contrary point of view? If this is not done, there is a danger that in their report they will quote you as committing the Party to a point of view which it does not hold and we would then have to publicly contradict that statement, which would naturally cause considerable embarrassment. I shall therefore be glad to have a copy of the letter that you send to Mr. Asok Mehta in either case. I trust you will consider this matter as somewhat urgent, so that any wrong impression may be corrected forthwith.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

H.H. Maharaja P.K. Deo of Kalahandi,
29, Firozeshah Road,
NEW DELHI.

(M.R. Masani)

EXPRESS

H.H. MAHARAJA P.K. DEO OF KALAH NDI
29, FERDZESH H ROAD,
NEW DELHI

REFERENCE YOUR MEETING PRIME MINISTER TOMORROW
TRUST YOU WILL VOICE PARLIAMENTARY BOARDS VIEW AND
DISSOCIATE YOURSELF FROM GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND GUARD
AGAINST BEING QUOTED AS HAVING GIVEN THEM SUPPORT

MASANI

Swatantra Party Central Office,
143, Mahatma Gandhi Road,
Bombay.

2/8/62.

1.8.62

H.H.Maharaja P.K.Deo
of Kalahandi.

29, Firoshah Road,
NEW DELHI.

IN CONTINUATION MY TELEGRAM SECOND DAHYABHAI PATEL ^{Sent} HAS FOLLOWING
TELEGRAM TO PRIME MINISTER QUOTE REGRET SHORT NOTICE PREVENTS MY
ATTENDANCE STOP WITHHOLDING THE FACT OF AGGRESSION FOR FIVE LONG
YEARS AND CONNIVING AT ACTIVITIES OF CHINESE NATIONALS AND THE BANK
OF CHINA DETRIMENTAL TO THE SECURITY OF INDIA MOST DEPRORABLE STOP
MORE SO GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO TAKE ACTION EVEN AFTER THESE HAVE
BEEN POINTED OUT REPEATEDLY IN PARLIAMENT STOP MY PARTY AND I STRONGLY
OF OPINION THAT GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON CHINESE AGGRESSION WEAK AND
HALTING STOP WE SUGGEST IMMEDIATE SEVERANCE OF DIPLOMATIC TIES AND
STOPPAGE OF FRATERNISATION WITH CHINESE LEADERS STOP MY PARTY URGES
GREATER FIRMNESS AND ASSURES FULL SUPPORT TO WIGOROUS ACTION AT
THE FRONT FOR REPELLING AND RECOVERING INDIAN TERRITORY UNQUOTE.

M.R. MASANI

Not to be telegraphed

2/8/62.

Swatantra Party Central Office,
143, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bombay 1.