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30th May, 1962.

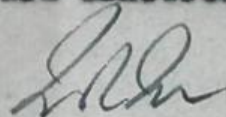
My dear Maharaja Sahab,

I trust you will not mind my dropping a line commenting on some development in Parliament in regard to which I would like to share my thoughts with you.

I have seen in this morning's newspaper a report that among the 45 members who supported the Communist move for adjournment of the House on our Ambassador's television interview in U.S. were Swatantra Party members, but not Praja Socialists. Since the attempt to censure the Ambassador was made by Communists and other friends of Mr. Krishna Menon, I am at a loss to understand why we should be associated ourselves with such a move, considering that our Party had supported an independent candidate against Mr. Krishna Menon with a view to getting him removed from the Cabinet. I hope when such things come up in future you will keep these considerations in mind, otherwise we shall be in danger of looking as if we are toeing the Communist line even if we do not mean to do so.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



(M.R. Masani)

His Highness Maharaja P.Y. Deo of Kalahandi, M.P.,
29 Perozeshah Road,
NEW DELHI.

P.S. Since this was dictated an interesting letter dated 27th May from a Party member in Aleppi in Kerala has come in, in which he anticipates what actually happened when our U.S. Ambassador's television interview came up for discussion in the Lok Sabha. I enclose a copy to show you that many members of the Party must have felt the way he does. While his English is poor, I think what he says makes sense.

Encl:

Nehru Displeased With Our Envoy's Manner Of Reply

ADJOURNMENT MOTION FAILS: REDS WALK OUT

"The Times of India" News Service

NEW DELHI, May 29.

THE Prime Minister today expressed displeasure at the way in which the Indian Ambassador in the United States had answered questions in a television interview relating to the strength of India's defence forces.

He said questioners at television interviews in America almost put words into the mouths of the persons interviewed, but he himself would have answered the questions that were put in a way different from what the Indian envoy had done.

The Prime Minister was giving his views on the controversial portions of the Indian Ambassador, Mr. B. K. Nehru's statements when the Lok Sabha took up the notice of an adjournment motion tabled by communists, and two calling attention motions, one by Praja-Socialists and the other by a Congress member.

At the outset, Mr. Nehru laid on the table a transcript of the television interview and then read out its gist.

The House refused to give leave for the discussion of the issue on adjournment, with only 45 members supporting it. Communists, Swatantra Party men and Socialists wanted the adjournment, but not the Praja-Socialists. Surprisingly enough, three or

four Congress members stood up along with other Opposition groups to signify their support. Communist members walked out as a protest against the rejection of their move.

The statement whose propriety was questioned by the communist leader, Mr. H. N. Mukherjee, and the Praja-Socialist leader, Mr. H. V. Kamath, was about the country's defence forces, while the one which formed the subject matter of the calling attention motion of the Congress member, Mr. Bhagwat Jha Azad, related to the Indian envoy's remarks about Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon.

INADEQUACY OF FORCES

The Indian Ambassador had spoken of the inadequacy of India's defence forces. Mr. Nehru made it clear in the House that no reflection was cast on the country's armed forces and that the envoy was having in mind the question of equipment. He read out the relevant portion of the Ambassador's reply which was: "India's defence forces in spite of impressions to the contrary, are certainly insufficient for the protection and security of the country because they are badly equipped."

While clarifying the context of this reply, Mr. Nehru, however, remark-

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Cut In U.S. Aid Will Not Make India Change Policy

PREMIER RECALLS REMARKS OF OUR AMBASSADOR

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ed that he himself was not happy about it and added: "Certainly I would not have said so and I would not like anyone else on our behalf to say so."

The answer to which Mr. Azad took objection and which provoked a number of Congress members to question the desirability of ambassadors making such pronouncements was about Mr. Menon. In reply to a question whether Mr. Menon's ways did not have something to do with the American Senat Committee's decision to cut the proposed aid to India, The Indian envoy had said: "I know very well that Mr. Menon is not popular in this country, and the manner in which he speaks in the United Nations irritate the American people. We are all aware of that. I suppose it is one of the reasons for the Senat Committee being a trifle displeased with us."

An indignant cry of "indiscreet" was heard from Mr. Mahavir Tyagi, and Mr. Kamath asked why the Ambassador had replied to the question at all.

Mr. Nehru himself said: "I would have dealt with the question differently. I do not wholly like the way the Ambassador dealt with it."

The Congress member, Mr. D. N. Tiwari asked if the Government intended to "take any steps" in view of the indiscreet statement of the Indian envoy.

The Speaker, however, passed on

to the next item on the agenda of the day.

P.T.I. adds: The Prime Minister took the occasion to reiterate the Government's policy in regard to the acceptance of foreign aid.

He said: "I wish to make it perfectly clear that we do not seek aid from anywhere with strings attached. May be we are pressed hard for help, but no amount of pressure will induce us to change our policy. In defence, it is obvious we would like to increase our capacity for manufacture. But that does not mean that we are weak today. It is a relative question of aircraft and other things. But whatever our position may be, we propose to defend our country adequately, whatever happens and from whatever source the danger may come (cheers)."

"It is obvious that we want to have better equipment. That is the reason we have approached various countries for this equipment and more particularly to manufacture it here," he added.

"PRESSURES WILL FAIL"

The Prime Minister said that the Indian Ambassador had categorically stated that a cut in U.S. aid would not influence India to change her policies. The Indian Ambassador had also stated that it was quite wrong and improper for the American Government to think that they could affect "our policies by pressures of this type."

Replying to questions about the proposed purchase of MIG aircraft from the Soviet Union, the Indian Ambassador had stated that India would make her purchases from any country in the world.

Mr. Mahavir Tyagi (Cong.) contended that the Indian Ambassador had committed an indiscretion in his references to Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon, who was a Minister.

Earlier, the Prime Minister expressed his regret for not being present in the House when the adjournment motion was first raised. He felt that, with a little difficulty, the transcript of the television interview could have been placed before the House yesterday. He placed a copy of the trans-