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*[Handwritten signature]*

1st April, 1972.

My dear Russi,

Many thanks for the copy of your letter to Shri H.M. Patel. I have faced so many defeats that I now refuse to be defeated by defeats. I also very firmly believe that there cannot be any compromise with fundamentals. Keep fundamentals intact and you can chop and change stratagey. But I see from your letter that your faith in our fundamentals has been shaken. You are only keeping success as the yardstick. I feel most of us were aware that we were facing a difficult and uphill task in pursuit of Swatantra Ideology. Our ideology, I believe, is the truth. Much more so in to-day's context than ever before. Thus your second and third alternatives I mentally reject. There is hardly any party left which can be called 'like-minded'.

Organisation Congress is a party which blindly follows the Congress Party's thinking. Jan Sangh has radically changed its economic thinking, and its leader Shri Bajpai can be termed a 'Hindu Indira'. Many have tried 'working from within' the Congress as you suggest some of us should do now. The only ones who have successfully done so are the Communists. The rest have fallen a prey to self-seeking. They dare not do anything but raise their fingers. I am sure neither you or me can be adept at finger raising.

The only answer thus is as Rajaji says in Direct Action. This means a change of stance on our part and preparedness, to suffer for what we believe in, including going to jail. Our cause, I believe, is noble enough for us to enjoy a jail if necessary. The fight has to be fought by the committed young. Whomsoever has mental walls against our new policies may remain in the background. But I am sure even those will be drawn ultimately to the battle by the sheer logic of it. If we fail we shall fight again. Our means of fighting can change if our means are within the walls of purity, but never the end itself.

I hope I do not sound too sanctimonious. If I do kindly excuse me. As you have sent copies of your letter to a few friends, I am also sending copies of my reply to the same friends. I trust this is in order.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

*[Handwritten signature: Manubhai Amersey]*

C.C.:1) Shri Rajaji, Shri H.M. Patel, Shri Minoo Masani, Shri Dandekar, Shri Madhu Mehta, Shri Rajoo.