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My dear Mr. Masani,

Bombay.

February 10, 1970

Today, I heard the most wonderful news of the Supreme Court's Judgement on the Bank Nationalisation Act of the Government of India. I wanted to contact you at Bombay but you are away, so I am leaving this note seeking some clarification from you on the following points :

1. As you know, out of 20 MPs from Orissa in the Lok Sabha, nine belong to the Swatantra Party and six belong to the former Congress. After the split in the Congress, Sri Supakar and Sri A.T.Sarma, joined the Congress (G) and of the four left from the Congress, two are from Koraput district who last time defeated our candidates by a very narrow margin. I think it was 500^{votes} in one case and 1,500^{votes} in the other case. Now, after our victory in the by-election in Koraput district, both of them are demoralised and are keen to join our Party. I have already told them that it would be without condition but, however, they insist that they should be at least assured that they would be given tickets in the next election to the Lok Sabha. As we don't have suitable candidates, I had a talk with the State President and feel that there is no harm in giving that assurance. However, both of them are meeting me in Delhi to finalise their exit from the Congress and join our Party. After these two gentlemen come out of the Indira Congress, she will have only Jaganath Rao and Chintamani Panigrahy from Orissa, and in the Rajya Sabha one only viz., Nandini Satpathy, after the biennial Rajya Sabha elections.
2. Shri J. Sunderlal, MP from Bastar, who joined our Party at the initiative of Sri Mithalal Meena of Rajasthan, has been won over by the Congress(R) and has joined them. Mr. Jain of our Parliamentary Office tells me that he was promised a motor cycle and as he was not given the vehicle he has gone over to the Congress. I would like to know if it is worthwhile trying to bring him to the fore. It would not be difficult. *However we need member to topple Indira.*
3. As I will not be able to attend the National Executive meeting, I beg to be excused because of some very important domestic work at my place. The decisions are however in safe hands and I will be enlightened when we meet in Delhi.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(P.K. Deo)

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