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June 27, 1973

PERSONAL

My dear Srikumar,

As you know at Madras we discussed Dr. Hande and came to the conclusion that Dr. Hande's political association with us was merely a matter of time. The only matter of surprise is the Party he has joined. Even there one should not be surprised knowing his background and his doings as General Secretary. Just before quitting and in response to our letter he sent us a list of Presidents and General Secretaries of district units in Madras. Please ask Mr. Ravindran to put up the list to you. I am asking you to do this because of the resentment that has been generated in some districts by Hande and Srinivasan. *I would like to be sure about the names listed therein.*

Not that you would already not have done so but I thought I might mention that you should write letters to some of our very active members both in the district committees and outside in various parts of Madras who had lapsed into inactivity because of the personality of the former General Secretary. What is very important is to ensure that none of our MLAs or at least most of them do not follow Hande although I suspect that a report in the Statesman about a certain MLA (Doraiswamy Nadar?) might defect to the Congress(O). I hope you will put your persuasiveness to maximum use in closing ranks and giving the lie to a statement that S.K. Srinivasan is once reported to have made to certain mutual friends that "when Mariswamy left he went out alone but when Hande leaves he will take half the Party with him".

I feel that the Party's enrolment drive should be stepped up with redoubled vigour and that you should immediately after the forthcoming meeting of your State Council undertake a tour of all the districts with a view to boosting the morale of our members particularly those who are office bearers and members of various committees.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(S. V. Raju)

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*Might well
turn out to be
true*