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December 31, 1971

My dear Mr. Sreenivasan,

I wish I was not a reader of March of the Nation. For then I wouldn't have seen your letter. Indeed I had to read the name twice to believe that you could have written that letter.

Attacking the United States is one thing but thanking God that the Soviet Union has "a true sense of values" really took my breath away. It is not out of a sense of values that the Soviets supported us but their own national interest in the context of big power politics. History alone can decide whether it was really necessary for us to have hugged the Soviet bear to ensure Bangla Desh secure its freedom.

You are a senior to me not merely in age but in intellect. I am sure in normal conditions without the emotionalism that is now pervading the length and breadth of our country you would not have credited the Soviet State with a "sense of value". One has only to read the trial of Daniel and Sinyavsky or Solzenitsyn's Cancer Ward to understand the true nature of the Soviet State.

So far as the Nixon administration is concerned, I was in the beginning a Nixonfan but my disillusionment with him started not now but when he ditched a true friend (Taiwan) to seek the favour of Peking. The Seventh Fleet manoeuvres were stupid. They sought to achieve nothing except to wave the flag and pacify their allies just as the Chinese Communists let out a lot of gas. Except for words neither China nor the U.S.A. lifted a little finger to give concrete help to Pakistan.

The great difference between the Russians and the Americans is that while in America a considerable degree of public opinion and the press opposed Nixon's position vis-a-vis the India-Pakistan conflict would there have been such a public exposition of dissent had Russia taken the kind of position America did. As I said earlier, it is easy to succumb to emotions. This is true of normal human beings but not from a person like Mr. V. T. Sreenivasan.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(S. V. Raju)

Mr. V.T. Sreenivasan
"Avanti"
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March of the Nation

25/12/71

Perfidious US

Sir : The resolution sponsored by the U. S. A. in the Security Council in regard to the Indo-Pak war shows how low that once great nation has fallen.

A country that had a man of the stature of Abraham Lincoln as its President is now ruled by a Nixon who is obviously unworthy to uphold the traditions of that high office. Thank God that we have at least one country — the Soviet Union — which has a true sense of values.

V. T. Sreenivasan
Bangalore

