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January 25, 1963

Express delivery

My dear Rajaji,

I am now engaged in preparing my comments by way of reply to the Maksoodpur Appeal. Munshi is kindly helping me with the drafting. At one place in the appeal there is a reference to a conversation the correctness of which I would like to check with you. This is the passage in question: *with you*

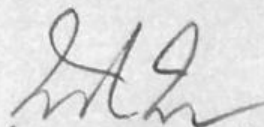
"The State President had long talks with the Founder Leader of the Party and so also with the President of the Swatantra Party of India. He was very regretful that Sri Jaleshwar Prasad and Sri Nanki Nandan Singh had forged a cleavage between himself and Shri M.R.Masani over a seat which had resulted in disrupting the solidarity of the Party just on the eve of the General Elections and thus had made the prospects of victory at the polls very bleak. At the Ranchi Aerodrome the State President told Sri Rajagopalachari to offer the Giridih Parliamentary seat (Hazaribagh District) to Sri M.R.Masani. Sri Rajagopalachari however said that the mind of Sri Masani was prejudiced against the State President and unless he shed this prejudice, it would not be proper to ask Shri M.R.Masani to contest the Parliamentary seat from Giridih, because God forbid, if he lost, Sri Masani would feel that he was intentionally defeated by the State President on account of the serious differences that existed between the two. Mr. Masani however ultimately dropped the idea of fighting the elections from the Giridih Parliamentary seat which was kept vacant for him till the last."

I wonder if you would be so good as to drop me a line to say whether the facts referred to in the paragraph are correct and, if not, to what extent they need be corrected in the statement that is being prepared?

Would you kindly arrange for your reply to reach me by the 30th as the papers have to be circulated to members of the General Council by the 1st?

Yours sincerely,

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari,
60 Bazlullah Road,
Thyagarayanagar,
Madras 17.


(M. R. MASANI)