

EXPRESS DELIVERY

3277

10th August 1962.

My dear Rajaji,

I wrote to you yesterday in a hurry as Munshi's letter came in just before the office was closing.

Since then I have given further thought to the matter and the more I think of it, the more clear I am that there should be no change in our decision or its implementation.

You will remember that it was after considerable debate that we decided on immediate action and publication of our decision on a major political issue, as it was realised that later the dispute over the jeep credit, which would come to a head on the Rajasaheb's return to India, would obscure the issues of principle between him and us and make it look as if it is a quarrel over money.

The reasons of courtesy that Munshi advances are obviously not the decisive ones. It is quite clear from his letter to me that what he wants is to climb down and patch the whole thing up, since he says, "Such a serious step should be discussed in his presence and after knowing his reactions". It is obvious that this reflects a definite intention to resile from the decision already taken.

Another issue that arises is how the work of any Party or organisation can be carried on if decisions are taken in a meeting attended by a dozen people after thorough consideration and debate, various points of view are reconciled, and then a member sitting somewhere in India develops second thoughts of cold feet, and wants the whole process undone over the head of a formal decision taken by a limb of the Party. A decision taken by a Joint Meeting of the two bodies can obviously be modified only by another meeting. No organisation can be run if the vacillations of individuals are to determine policy. This is the second time that Munshi has suggested backing out of the decisions taken after discussion and formally recorded.

I am saying all this because, while I feel you will share my own reactions in this matter, you may, in your desire to accommodate Munshi's point of view, lean over backwards, not to appear to be rigid.

I am anxiously awaiting a word from you on this subject, so that further action may be planned before I leave

on the morning of the 17th.

Yours sincerely,

(M.R. Masani)

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari,
60, Basulullah Road,
T'Nagar,
Madras 17.

P.S. Funnily enough, after this letter was dictated, comes a communication from Dr. B.N. Singh, the Rajah's brother, asking us to remove the Parliamentary Party's Office and ourselves from 40, Canning Lane which, as you know, was obtained for this purpose as a result of your talk with the Rajah of Ramgarh in Bombay. This is yet another straw indicating that it is the other side that is on the war-path and that appeasement will not pay.