

M/P 3422 E-7

Express Delivery

June 30, 1970

My dear Rajaji,

I got back last night from Delhi after a useful visit. You will have seen the report of my Press Conference in Delhi yesterday afternoon. Before that, I had seen Morarjibhai. He told me that it had not been very easy to pilot the Resolution. The main headache was Gujarat and the behaviour of our people there during the last three or four months. Even now, the Gujarat people are extremely unhappy with the AICC decision.

After the Press Conference, I called on Kamraj for a courtesy visit and he gave me the advance copy of your article in Swarajya which you had sent him on his "Save India" appeal. He plans to convene some kind of a Convention in Madras in the next few weeks and hopes you will participate in it. I told him that I was confident that you would do so. He then wants to convene a second convention in Delhi in which the rest of us would participate. I think this is a good idea.

I trust you liked the lines of my Press Conference. It has been well reported and the journalists were happy with it.

It is likely that between now and our meetings in Madras on the 20th of July, there will be further discussions in Delhi in regard to the formation of a bloc in Parliament on the lines mentioned at my Press Conference. So far, there has been no objection in principle from the other two Parties.

While it will be easier at our Madras meetings to respond to the AICC's call, we shall also have to undertake the slightly more ticklish task of realigning our groups in Gujarat and elsewhere in line with this development. I trust that in so far as Gujarat is concerned, we shall now be firm and rule out any deviation of a major nature such as efforts at toppling a friendly government. The only other problem I see is that in regard to Madras. I have seen Mariswamy's statement made with your approval and reported in the Statesman of Calcutta, but I wonder if it is good enough saying that "as regards national policies and opposition to Mrs. Gandhi are concerned, Rajaji is wholly with Mr. Kamraj" and that "the electoral alliance with the DMK was only with regard to elections in Tamil Nadu; and it was true that Rajaji does not want to break the electoral alliance perfunctorily. But this was a purely local arrangement for the Party's own convenience and which in no way affected the Party's attitude on national issues."

Upto now, this was all right. But in the coming months, such compartmentalisation will, I fear, no longer be possible in any State.

I am mentioning this so that you may kindly consider how this part of our decision within the National Executive or the General Council should be drafted. I recall our conversation earlier in the year when you had mentioned to me in response to my enquiry that you had made up your mind and made your choice but that for very good reasons, you did not wish to announce it.

I shall be glad to know from you how we should now take one step further in the unfolding of that choice. However, this all we shall of course have to face. Let us be glad that the right thing has at last been done by the biggest Opposition Party in the country and that we are well on our way to your "Grand Alliance". May I pay my tribute to you for the unswerving advocacy of that concept which has come from you with such effort during the best part of the last twelve months!

With regards,

Yours, as ever,

(M. R. Masani)

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari,
5 Naoroji Road,
Chetput,
Madras 51.

Mr. M. R. Masani, M.P.,
2, Gandhi Road,
New Delhi - 11