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CONFIDENTIAL

May 29, 1970

My dear Rajaji,

I am glad to report some ^{meagre} ~~amount~~ of progress which should please you. Recently, we had a meeting in Delhi at which Morarji Desai and Ram Subhag Singh on one side and Vajpayee and Madhok on the other, met along with me. Since nobody else was prepared to do it, the task of preparing a Draft which would serve as a basis of a statement which might emanate from the AICC when it meets at the end of June, was entrusted to me.

The idea is that if this project succeeds, the Jan Sangh and we could make a suitable response when our own meetings take place in July, and if this can be done, then a United ^{Coalition} ~~Coalition~~ in Parliament with one Leader, two Deputy Leaders and a common discipline could be established.

There are many ifs (though not on our side) and I therefore hope that our hopes will not be dashed. But there are reasonable chances of success.

This morning I discussed the Draft that I had prepared with Morarji Desai and I am glad to say that, subject to a few textual changes, he has found it acceptable. Since he will be seeing you in Madras on the 1st, I am sending you the text as it has evolved out of our discussion this morning. I thought it would be useful if you could see it before he meets you so that you can discuss any points in the Draft that you may wish to.

As far as I can gather from Morarjibhai, the biggest hurdle at the AICC meeting will be the opposition from their Gujarat members who are naturally very angry with our Gujarat members for what they have done.

Morarjibhai has been very reasonable about all this but I thought that a personal appeal from you to him to be as firm with his Gujarat people as you and I have tried to be with ours, would be helpful.

Do please let Dr. Cooper have a line reporting on your talk with Morarjibhai. I myself will be abroad in Europe for some meetings from the 2nd till the 15th of June but will see your letter on my return.

I hope you are keeping well. Meanwhile, with kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(M. R. Masani)

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari,
Madras.

Encl