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January 17th 1964.

My dear Rajaji,

I am leaving for Rajkot for a couple of days tomorrow morning to inaugurate the Rajkot District Peasants' Conference against the 17th Amendment over which Ranga is presiding, and shall be back here on Monday evening. I am forwarding to you herewith the galley-proofs of my General Secretary's Report for which, as you will see in the first paragraph, I have taken full personal responsibility. All the same, I thought you would not mind glancing through it in case there is any particular comment which you would like to make before it is finally printed.

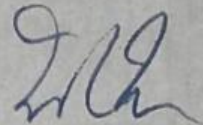
I also pass on ~~the~~ note on amendments to the Party Constitution for distribution to members of the General Council. The occasion for this note is a resolution passed by the State Executive of the Gujarat Unit which they wish to place before the General Council flatly opposing the amendment proposed by the Central Organising Committee. The resolution contains such bright thoughts as the following: "Taking into consideration adult franchise as enshrined in our Constitution, the proposed amendment is against the very spirit of our Constitution and is undemocratic in as much as it seeks to put a premium on money." Further "any political Party in India must always have the masses as its base and without such a base no political Party can function efficiently and without such a base the Party will have no future."

Coming as it does from Gujarat where, having got the Centre to agree to an enrolment campaign ending in October and elections up to State levels ending in December, the Gujarat Unit had to abandon the entire effort by reason of the absence of an adequate and verifiable membership, this resolution is a shining case of irresponsibility. Unless this kind of argument is countered with facts such as the enclosed note contains, I fear we may have a difficult time piloting this amendment at Bangalore. If we fail to get this change made, I fear the base of the Party will simply fade away by attrition. Would you suggest any alterations in the note before it is put out? I would very much appreciate early guidance from you on both these points as also the inquiry

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made by me in my letter to you yesterday about whether or not the Session of Saturday afternoon should be open to the Press and public.

Yours sincerely,



(M. R. Masani)

Encl*

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