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21st December, 196

Dear Rajaji,

Thank you for your letter of December 19 re: Goa. You are quite right saying that Point 21 of our Statement of Policy applies to it. Unfortunately, however, when you make a pronouncement, our members get excited about it because they feel that it in some way commits the Party. However, I shall take the opportunity to make it clear that the views expressed on this point are your personal views so that this concern may be allayed.

Incidentally it may not be irrelevant to note that, as against 109,000 votes cast for parties and groups in Goa for merger, 140,000 votes were cast for the United Goans, the Congress and others who stood for the status quo or for full Statehood but against merger. I think you will agree that in matter of a plebescitary nature it is the number of votes cast and not the number of seats won, which is purely ~~co~~idental, that should be borne in mind.

I am returning to Bombay tomorrow evening.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari,
60 Bazlullah Road,
MADRAS 17

(M. R. MASANI)

c.c. Mr. S.V.Raju

mrm; rka