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R.V.S.Mani, M.A., LL.B.,
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New Delhi - 14

Dated the 5th June 1964

Subject: Proposal to challenge the validity of the
Constitution. (Seventeenth Amendment) Bill

Respected Sir,

Your moving tributes to our late Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru drew tears from everyone who read or heard them. I always admired your critical comments about some of Nehru's policies with which you differed, because such criticism arose out of your unbounded affection for him and your desire to bring him to the right path in the interest of the nation. I have also fully appreciated your views about Sheikh Abdullah since I was connected with the Kashmir Conspiracy Case from 1958 to 1961 as the Chief Defence Counsel therein and in my several discussions with Sheikh Sahib in the Special Jail at Jammu, I was convinced about his utter sincerity and honesty, in everything that he said in regard to the Kashmir problem. I wish everyone of us could imbibe your charity of mind and catholicity of outlook on life.

Coming to the subject matter of this letter, you might recall, Sir, that after the Supreme Court had delivered judgment on 9-3-1964, annulling the Madras Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling on land) Act, in the matter of a number of petitions that I had moved, I along with Sri Sundaram and Shri R.Krishnaswamy Gounder of Coimbatore, had met you in New Delhi on 25-3-64 when you were here for the Kisan Sammelan. I then expressed to you my desire to file petitions challenging the validity of the Constitution (Seventeenth) Amendment Bill if and when passed by the Parliament, and to request you to come to the Supreme Court and argue the petitions. To this your reply was "That will be a historic occasion. I will certainly do it if I am alive". Since then, Sir, my constant prayer has been that God may spare you still for this historic occasion.

Now that the Bill has been passed by the Parliament I am anxious to move the Supreme Court to restrain the Government of India from obtaining the President's assent to it as required under Article 368 of the Constitution. The vacation Judge, Mr. Justice Sarkar is sitting on 16th June 1964 and if I can file the petition immediately I can have the interim order issued.

I shall be obliged, therefore, if you can kindly get in touch with Sri Sundaram and Sri R.Krishnaswamy Gounder of Coimbatore immediately and ask them to arrange for filing petitions in the Supreme Court at the earliest. Sri Gounder is well aware of all the procedures and it was he who had taken all the pains in successfully challenging the Madras Act, and he will make all necessary arrangements for this case also without any difficulty whatsoever.

I shall be grateful for a line in reply from you.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

sd. R.V.S.Mani

To

Shri C. Rajagopalaachari
Madras.

(true copy)