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May 11, 1964.

My dear Rajaji,

1. Thank you for your letters of May 7 and 8. I have issued the notice to Members of Parliament with the deletions you have suggested. I have also made my reservations to arrive in Madras at 13.45 hours on Saturday the 16th and to leave for Bombay on Monday the 18th as preferred by you. Since this means that we will not have time for a talk before the meeting but will be able to exchange ideas after it, I am putting down here a little information and a few thoughts for your information.
2. I felt the necessity to have a meeting of the Parliamentary Board and got Prof. Ranga's concurrence because of the unhealthy situation that appears to be developing within our own ranks. Both Dahyabhai Patel and Kalahandi, apart from expressing their views on Kashmir, have gone on the Jan Sangh platform. Dahyabhai said he did so without knowing that Balraj Madhok had called for the arrest of yourself, Jayaprakash and myself. Kalahandi, however, had promised at a Party meeting not to go on the Jan Sangh platform in Jammu but did so. He first denied that the meeting was a Jan Sangh meeting but when shown Press clippings, he said he had never promised to not do so. Luckily, Maharani Gayatri Devi and Kapur Singh joined me in recalling his promise otherwise Ranga was quite prepared to give him a clean bill.
3. I enclose copies of two clippings which show that certain members of the Parliamentary Group have been talking to pressmen about what goes on at our Group meetings.
4. On the other hand, there are encouraging signs also. When I went to Bhubaneswar last week to discuss organisational problems with the State Executive Committee, Kashmir came up for informal discussions after the business had concluded. I am happy to inform you that the Maharaja of Patna spoke for about half an hour making out a cast-iron case to prove that there was no accession. His

view as usual was very enlightened. The members of the Committee were divided in their opinion, some including Kalahandi's brother arguing that you and I should keep on expressing our point of view which was correct while others held a view that discretion dictated silence.

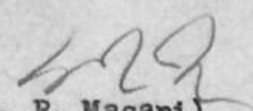
5. Maharawal Lakshman Singh of Dungarpur unfortunately cannot attend the meeting in Madras but he has given me a statement to place before the meeting, a copy of which I enclose for your prior perusal.

6. The question arises about the line to take next weekend. While it is possible to take the view that the Party need not be committed to a concrete position till the Central Organising Committee meets in Bombay on June 14 and 15, it is quite essential that clear guidance should be given to the Group in Parliament as to the line that should be adopted when this matter comes up for discussion in both Houses between May 27 and June 5 as it is bound to do. I think it will be very helpful if between now and the time we meet on Saturday, you could put together directives which would make a limited commitment leaving, if necessary, certain issues for final determination by the Central Organising Committee, the larger body. Apart from laying down the general line to be followed by Party spokesmen, I think we should decide that Ranga, as our leader should be the only spokesman of the Party in the Lok Sabha. If we allow more than one person to speak there is bound to be an unseemly squabble within our own ranks. In so far as the Rajya Sabha is concerned, if Dahyabhai accepts the line laid down he would make the appropriate spokesman. If, however, he asks to be excused, Prof. Ruthnaswamy would do a very good job.

7. Since we have opened the door to some possibilities of members of Parliament turning up to be heard on Kashmir on Sunday morning, I think it would be helpful if we start our discussions at 4 p.m. on Saturday with a preliminary discussion for an hour or so on the Kashmir issue, then adjourn the topic and move on to routine business. A final decision in regard to Kashmir could be taken on Sunday afternoon.

8. Abdullah left Bombay this morning after a two-day stay. I invited him to my place for tea when he met about twenty-five people making-up a cross section of persons in different walks of life. He made a very fine impression on all of them and made a few people think again.

Yours sincerely,


(M. R. Masani)

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari,
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